



Pressing on: Paul Flather looks at the history and future prospects of one of Britain's most prestigious academic publishing houses, the CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS which has been in continuous operation for 400 years (page 11)

Where is the next J. D. Bernal? Jon Turney looks at the study of SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY and the need for a new synthesizing figure (page 12)

PRISONER REFORM still suffers the stigma applied to it by Victorians like Dickens and Carlyle. W. J. Forsythe reexamines the reformers' methods and motives and asks what lessons they hold for today's penal system (page 13)

THOMAS HOBBS' philosophy was a more or less direct result of the political circumstances of his time. Mark Kishlansky reviews a new edition, in English and Latin, of Hobbes's *De Cive* (page 17)

The Renaissance demonstrated that usefulness and beauty were not incompatible. INDUSTRIAL DESIGN is now just as much about aesthetics as techniques. Joseph Black reviews a collection of essays on design in engineering, followed by three more pages of engineering book reviews (page 22)

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## NEXT WEEK

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## The New Realism

The present borderland between spring and summer is also the rather brief season for trade union conferences in higher education. The Association of University Teachers held its biannual council meeting in Manchester last week (page 7). The Association of Polytechnic Teachers met this week in London. The main polytechnic and college teachers union, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, holds its annual conference in Birmingham this weekend.

Trade unions are supposed to be experiencing something called the new realism, which can best be summed up as learning to live with Mrs Thatcher rather than pretending that she isn't there. The new realism is an ambiguous phenomenon however. It has mainly been interpreted in terms of the Trades Union Congress attempting to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government. This is regarded by some active trade unionists as betrayal because it inevitably implies acceptance, for the moment, of the political and legal framework established since 1979. But the new realism could also be interpreted in terms of Arthur Scargill-style militancy, because some might argue that uncompromising struggle with the present Government is the only "realistic" policy for the trade union movement to follow.

The AUT and Natthe, apart from any symbolic solidarity that may be offered to the miners in the excitement of their conferences, are almost bound to support the new realism in its moderate form. Like all teacher trade unions they have little industrial muscle; with an 11-week strike by the National Union of Mineworkers failing to move the Government even the widespread disruption being planned by the school teachers is unlikely to have an industrial as opposed to a political effect.

Natthe is now following closely in the footsteps of the teachers and the AUT is tugging along behind. It is the only feasible strategy for both. To accept offers when the game is still being played would make no sense. But with the summer term half way through and no effective plans laid for industrial action (and considerable doubt about the willingness of university and polytechnic teachers to take such action) any campaign in support of present pay claims can be little more than symbolic. Mr Scargill may be prepared to keep his members on strike until November or December.

ber, but no one in the AUT or Natthe leadership seriously imagines that the present dispute will not have been settled long before September. Nor do they imagine that there is much more money to be squeezed out of universities or local authorities. A few more weeks, some symbolic demonstrations, an extra fraction percentage point - that is the almost inevitable trajectory of the present pay dispute.

The two main higher education unions are also committed to the new realism because they either are or aspire to be part of the policy making fabric. Natthe has representatives on the National Advisory Body and most other important academic bodies in non-university higher education; in further education, through the TUC, the association is closely involved in the work of the Manpower Services Commission. Such participation is to the advantage of both Natthe and the system, but only is the association forced to adopt a more sophisticated view of its long-term interests but policy making is an open process that is not entirely dominated by the managerial perspective.

The AUT in contrast has always been more of an outlier. It has been largely excluded from university policy by the inwardness of the University Grants Committee and the confidentiality and informality of the vice chancellors' relationship with the Government - maybe to the mutual advantage of the AUT and the universities. But even here, although there is no prospect of the AUT being granted the formal seats of influence possessed by Natthe, there are signs of a less formal incorporation of the association in the processes of university policy. The UGC is now committed to a more open and participatory course, while the vice chancellors and the AUT have increasingly convergent views of issues such as student numbers.

The flaw in the new realism is that the present Government regards it as not much more than a forced abdication by the trade unionists of their previous claim to special influence, while the trade unions regard it as the hope of a restored dialogue between the Government and organized labour. Too often it seems that Mrs Thatcher and her ministers seek not a new partnership with the trade unions but the latter will accept the legal framework and political realities that have been established since 1979 - but their unilateral submission. What they have in mind is not a fifth estate

that keeps to the rules but no fifth estate at all.

Certainly the behaviour of the Government in higher and further education is consistent with that interpretation. The February White Paper *Training for Jobs* by seeking the exaggerated expansion of the MSC's empire seems likely to upset the delicate balance on which the MSC experiment has been successfully built. The growing lack of sensitivity towards Natthe's participation in the NAB and the establishment of an appointed accreditation council for teacher education also suggest an alarming impatience with any arrangement that formally respects the participation of trade unions of policy making. The new plan to rob university teachers of tenure is another example of this escalating intolerance.

Today too many people have been persuaded to accept the naive view that the representation of special interests, especially trade unions, on policy making bodies is somehow wrong. This view is naive for two reasons. First, it rests on the assumption that some views are disinterested and so legitimate and others are biased and therefore illegitimate; the truth of course is that we all have special interests to promote. Second, it ignores the need to engage, to build up broad support for proposed policy and excludes entirely the possibility that the outcome might be a better policy; trade union participation, especially in education where it has been mixed up with professional representation, has often been crucial in engaging consent and improving policy.

So the new realism is about much more than pay. It is about how trade unions can be involved in the process of constructive change. Of course it is possible that both the AUT and Natthe may be pushed to the margins and become irresponsibly oppositional. The events of the past five years have justified them down that road. But the bulk of their members, and perhaps of all trade unionists, recognizes that whatever the present provocation this *cuius sac* must be avoided. That so far the extent of the new realism, further than fostering antistatist anti-trade unionism the Government should demonstrate its good will by trying to reopen the blocked dialogue. That alone can translate the present pious hope into solid and hopeful practice. It is not in the national interest to face modern trade unions with a black and white choice between anachronistic adventurism and impotent subservience.

examine its chosen problem in this light. The group's terms of reference include attitudes to science and scientists as well as public understanding of scientific principles and scientific facts.

The Royal Society group should certainly try and fathom the public's view of the aims and methods of scientific inquiry as well as the general level of basic scientific knowledge. But it would be a mistake to take an ambivalent view of the scientific enterprise as signifying inadequate understanding. It must be accepted that it is quite possible for people to become more opposed to some facets of research as they learn more about them.

This may well imply that if scientists and the media communicate research more effectively to the public they will then have to work even harder to win assent to new experiments in controversial areas. But that will remain their democratic obligation.

And only when scientists take the trouble to learn how their efforts are perceived by outsiders will they be able to justify their work effectively. There will remain two good reasons why they should. In their own interest, they will need to answer more frequent calls to account for the hundreds of millions of pounds and dollars the taxpayer is asked to spend on research, in the wider interest, a common resolution among scientists to enter such debates would be the best possible boost for science education.

Laurie Taylor



Could we have some silence, please? "A little bit of 'ush'." Thank you to much. Well now, I'm sorry that with one thing and another it was only possible to fit this little occasion into morning coffee break but nevertheless I'm sure that it's none the less well meant for that.

Hear, hear. So, without more ado, Professor Lapping, Gordon, on behalf of all the members of the department of communication and media studies - all members, that is, except Doctor Pice, cummiller who is unfortunately incommunicado because of what I understand are freak weather conditions in Southern Tuscany, and Mr Odgen who has asked me to express his minority view that the professor represents the unacceptable face of academic hierarchy and that the collection for your leaving present should have been donated to the miners - on behalf of all the rest of us may I wish you a very happy and very long - and retirement.

Thank you, Doctor Wernitz. You indeed. Early retirement. Two relatively small words, but nevertheless two words which call to mind...

Not too long, Lapping. We've got seminars. Yes indeed. Well, this is as you say, certainly a very special day for me, a day on which I must first thank all my colleagues for their support and friendliness over the years. I shall of course, miss you all, and it would perhaps be invidious to pick out individuals for special mention. But nevertheless, may I say a special word of thanks to some of the backroom people who have often helped to sustain me over the years with the occasional cheery word or nod of encouragement - people like good old Pat from estates and buildings, always on hand with a witty or compassionate observation. And wise old Bernie from gardening and maintenance - how nice to see the seeds he planted a couple of years ago blooming so vigorously - and dare one say it, so profitably - this year. And then young Scottie who has shared the office next to mine all the time I've been here and kept all of us amply provided with under-floor central heating. And, of course, there was also Matron, dear old Tessa...

Do get a move on, Lapping. Quite so. But I must take a moment to mention the gifts which you have quite literally showered, upon me. A big thank you first of all to the department itself for the anglophone desk lamp and the bound copy of *Faculty Board Minutes* (1978/80). Then to the registrar for his customary colour photograph of the university. And a special mention to the vice chancellor and his collaborators in this matter, the University Medical Centre and Doctor Rolland, for their thoughtful and appropriate gift of a phial of New Blood. That merely leaves absent friends. And here I must pick out just two.

Lapping! It's time to go. For although they have not always acted with what one might call intelligence, or impartiality, or insight, or even commonsense, let me finally, in conclusion, ask you to raise your cups to the present government and to the UGC. Where would I have been without them?

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## Nuclear role for colleges

London University colleges will be requisitioned for use as community care centres in the event of nuclear war, according to confidential war emergency plans.

The plans, drawn up by the Greater London Council and the London boroughs, detail which premises and equipment will be taken over, and the line of command for ensuring order.

None of the colleges has been consulted in the drawing up of the plans, and London University was only notified when the National Union of Public Employees drew it to their attention last year. The plans say that "parts of the contents... are restricted and must not be disclosed to any unauthorized person."

Chelsea's Marjolin College would be a wartime sector headquarters. Chelsea School of Art, Queen Elizabeth College and Goldsmiths' College would all be community care centres, along with numerous schools and hotels such as the Kensington Hilton and the London Tara hotel, and also the Commonwealth Institute.

The centres would provide refuge for people caught in the open at the time of a pre-attack warning, and would provide information on radioactivity levels, and casualties. The plans assume that people have been advised to lay in stocks of food and water for 14 days.

Goldsmiths' College, which was also alerted by NUPE of the proposals, wrote to the GLC asking for a copy of the war plans. Safety officer Mr Mick Booker said "We never received a reply. It came up again at another meeting, but there was not any urgency expressed and it was dropped."

Dr Charles Phelps, principal of Chelsea College, said this was the first he had heard of it but it did not surprise him. It was to be expected that large buildings would be requisitioned in this way, if there was such a war.

Mr John Akker, deputy general secretary of the Association of University Teachers said: "We are surprised that these plans have been discussed in such great detail without any previous consultation with the universities or their staff. There must be extreme doubt on what protection the universities could afford in the event of a nuclear attack."

Ms Jane Taylor, for the National Union of Students said: "It sounds quite bizarre. I have not heard anything about it at all. The fact there is no consultation or public knowledge about the usage of such buildings is something we would be concerned about."



Evelyn Waugh's *Vile Bodies*, 13

## 'Low-paid' offer may be dropped

by David Jobbins

A gesture towards low-paid college lecturers is on the point of being withdrawn by local authority employers who next week decide on their formal response to reject emphatically a 4.5 per cent pay offer. There are known to be divisions on the management panel over how much, if any, of the offer should remain on the table.

But the £330 for lecturers stuck at the top point of the Lecturer 1 scale is one element which could be erased if hawks on the panel get their way in advance of the requisitioned Burnham meeting which is provisionally fixed for next Friday.

The employers, who were opposed to the unions' claim for automatic transfer from the L1 to the Lecturer 2 scale, only agreed to include it in the offer to secure a swift settlement ahead of the school teachers.

They had hoped to isolate the schoolteachers, but as that strategy has failed because the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education rejected the package, they see little point in retaining it.

The £330 for about 12,000 L1s brought the value of the 4 per cent offer up to 4.5 per cent and was one of the reasons negotiators initially recommended acceptance.

Natthe general secretary Mr Peter Dawson warned this week: "If in the course of negotiations an offer which was properly brought back to the membership were to be withdrawn, it would massively increase the anger of the members which has already manifested itself in the rejection of the proposed agreement."

The employers will now have to decide whether to risk escalating the already inevitable dispute which will occur when they tell the unions they are unable to improve on the offer.

If negotiations do break down, Natthe's 800 branches are to vote on industrial action, beginning with a one day strike on June 21. Other sanctions are bans on voluntary duties and overtime.

Natthe members were being told this week that they should not assume it would be a short battle and that plans were being laid for industrial action in the autumn term.

Arbitration is unlikely to be accepted by the lecturers even if it forms part of the peace formula in the schools. Natthe leaders regard it as unhelpful, particularly over the question of the L1/L2 transfer.

The rival Association of Polytechnic Teachers, who opposed the provisional settlement because it

was tipped against staff in advanced further education, has said it will not contemplate industrial action until a request for arbitration had been refused by the employers.

Many universities were hit yesterday by industrial action by campus unions over pay. Sheffield University was expected to be closed and a number of Scottish universities were also reported to be taking a firm line. The unions have said their action is not intended to hit examinations and asked for these to be rescheduled if necessary.

Union leaders expect improved offers in the near future although only a date for committee A, the academics' negotiating machinery has so far been fixed - for June 12.

Although the formal offer to academics remains at 3 per cent, they have rejected a package of 4.2 per cent across the board and £230 to the top point of the lecturer scale.

The employers were especially disappointed by the rejection of the package offered to manual workers of £3.40 on all grades and a number of other concessions which they felt showed they were prepared to treat them as a special case.

Other groups have indicated they are prepared to see the manual workers treated as a special case.

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## Portsmouth threatens to go it alone

by Karen Gold

Portsmouth Polytechnic is threatening to petition the Privy Council for its own Royal Charter if it is not released from most Council for National Academic Awards controls.

A CNA A team which visited the polytechnic this week for its quinquennial review, was told that Portsmouth would not accept a partnership in validation model which retained as much CNA A involvement as the Newcastle Polytechnic scheme.

"The traditional approach for an institution to gain responsibility for its own awards would be to petition the Privy Council, and the polytechnic would not wish to exclude this possibility from its considerations", said a submission to the CNA A.

Given Portsmouth's academic record "such an aspiration could hardly be thought implausible", it started.

Portsmouth will now put detailed proposals for delegated authority to the CNA A. Its four ideas for discussion during the visit included the statement that "the polytechnic should have the power to validate and operate courses and then determine degree results... without further reference to CNA A."

"That power would be subject to a framework outlined in the other three propositions, which give the CNA A power to agree the polytechnic's procedures for overseeing and validating courses, entitlement to receive external examiners reports and monitor external examining, and undertake an institutional review after five years to evaluate the experience."

The submission criticizes the council's failure to give substance to the idea of partnership, and says that internal validation will never work at its best when everyone knows real power is held externally. The CNA A's involvement with the National Advisory Body also changes its relationship with institutions, it says.

The CNA A chief officer Dr Edwin Kerr said that the council might offer Portsmouth a much looser arrangement than its present one after the quinquennial visit. Applications to the Privy Council were entirely for institutions to consider, but they would involve central and local government as well, he said.

At Newcastle courses are validated by the polytechnic and CNA A side by side instead of in succession. It began as a two-year experiment but this year became permanent for practically all courses.

## DES bids to extend new blood scheme

by Ngaio Crequer

and John O'Leary

The universities' "new blood" scheme will be extended by at least a year if bids by the Department of Education and Science are accepted in the coming round of public spending negotiations.

The DES has asked the Treasury for funds to continue the scheme at approximately its present level in 1985/86. It was introduced initially for three years, ending in 1984/85, but the Advisory Board for the Research Councils told ministers when the scheme was first proposed that it would be needed for a decade.

The University Grants Committee put in a bid last year for a four year. The committee has also been discussing the scheme or what should replace it, as it formulates its submission to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, on "the great debate."

One idea being canvassed is suggesting to Sir Keith that the UGC is given a sum each year just for new posts, which it will allocate to specific universities, without saying which disciplines should be covered.

This would meet one serious objection by universities to the current scheme, that job descriptions are too narrow, essential people cannot be replaced, and cross-disciplinary areas are ignored.

## Survey shows intolerance

by Paul Flather

One in two people believe homosexuals should be barred from teaching in colleges and universities, and most believe revolutionary and racist "extremists" should also be barred from higher education teaching.

The findings come in a survey of British social attitudes carried out by the Independent Academic Institute, Social and Community Planning Research, published this week as the first of what is hoped will become a permanent annual study for academic use.

The survey found 37 per cent in favour of allowing revolutionaries who wanted to overthrow the British government to teach in colleges, but 41 per cent were willing to tolerate racists, lecturers.

Even so, 44 per cent believe the opportunities to go on to higher education should be increased, 49 per cent back the status quo, and just 5 per cent want them reduced.

Overall the survey showed a low rating for higher education, with just one out of ten wanting extra education spending going on college and university students, while most wanted to boost spending on the less able children, and on secondary schooling.

Public attitudes, page 11



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## DON'S DIARY

## MONDAY

Phoned by colleague in extension studies. I am to lecture at the community college in Sheridan and will be delivered there by the university's twin jet. I am looking forward to a plane trip of several hundred miles and to learning more of the extension studies programme which involves community colleges in all corners of Wyoming.

I catch the late night movie, *Law and Order*, a Western starring Ronald Reagan. He plays the good guy called (unaccountably) Frank Johnson. Only one thing seems to have changed about him. Nowadays he can afford a better barber.

## TUESDAY

Leave hurriedly to deliver children to school (part of the faculty of education and fortunately on campus) and self to lecture. Is it the width of the streets or the need to stop for school buses that makes traffic here appear so leisurely in pace compared with that at home? Perhaps it is simply that Americans are more assured and less frenetic with machines. I am still adjusting to lecture slots of one and a half hours and an eight o'clock start. The rest of the morning is "office hours" devoted to answering student queries. Conference courses, ie courses of supervised reading, are another novelty, but enjoyable since they put me in close touch with some of the most senior undergraduates. The afternoon temperature is 73° and provides a holiday atmosphere. Dressed of the anoraks and parkas of earlier weeks, the women undergraduates have definite female shape and Frisbies curl across the campus as I return from lunch.

## WEDNESDAY

I recheck sources and references used for a conference paper I am to deliver on Friday. A library is a library is a library. In the catalogue hall or the warm gloom of the stacks I am startled out of reverie by the realization that I am still in America. There is a dinner in honour of Gerald Ford at the university president's campus home. It is a big occasion, not least for the city police who patrol the sidewalk, but they let us enter unchallenged. Ford arrives after the other guests, collects a drink without fuss and everyone present has a brief word with him before dinner. No one seeks to monopolize him, yet this is managed without any formality or contrivance. My colleagues in political science are present in force, a large number of the guests are members of the state congress ("but Democrats" some of them admit to Ford). I am seated next to an elegant and witty congresswoman whose home is in Laramie and who entertains me with stories of the idiosyncrasies of Wyoming politics. As states are to the federal Congress, so counties are cantankerous and exacting taskmasters to the Wyoming congress. Each has recently become determined to have a state historic park within its boundaries irrespective of the presence or paucity of historic remains.

Secret service men, detectable by the car-pole they wear, take it in turns to drift unobtrusively to the bar we have abandoned. Further introductions as we leave, including one to US Senator Simpson, son of a former Wyoming governor, and an ever-helpful friend of the university. He is slim but over six and a half feet, proof positive that Westerners walk tall.

## THURSDAY

Gerald Ford provides a question and answer seminar for the department. He has an excellent memory for the details of his own administration, is ready to be mildly critical of Reagan's Middle East policy and,

faced with a hostile question from one of our students, answers with good humour and not the pomposity or arrogance I have often observed in politicians dealing with student audiences.

A Fulbright fellow on leave from Sofia University joins us for coffee. The conversation ranges over the status of political studies in Bulgaria, comparative living standards, Soviet-East European relations and the life and untimely death (murdered by Hitler) of King Boris.

Under leaden skies instead of the normal blue, a colleague and I drive the two hundred miles to Denver. Our conference is held in a low, modern building of brick and glass, but the downtown campus (shared by three universities) is flanked by an ornate *fin de siècle* pile boldly labelled "The Twilio". Has some wit in the city planning department arranged this juxtaposition?

## FRIDAY

At breakfast I forget the correct term for my preference in eggs and must settle for "easy over". I phone my wife to learn that the road from Laramie is now closed by bad weather and the weekend of sightings we had planned is cancelled. The freak storm reaches Denver by lunchtime; the conference elaborates the merits of papers on the development of hot and dusty Africa while the snow whirls past the windows.

Some things are the same the world over. At the business meeting the committee for the forthcoming year are pressed into service with hilarity, acclain and uncontested nomination. It is the ultimate in consensus politics; only the victors have any qualms about the spoils of office.

"Perception depends on where your nose is" a former colleague once asserted. This notion, rather differently expressed, has been agreed upon at the conference and its truth is demonstrated on our drive to the conference dinner; for while I, as passenger, enthuse on the picture postcard quality of the State Capitol and surrounding trees capped with snow, the driver rails against the natives of Denver who, given a better knowledge of the street plan and four-wheel-drive utilities against our standard saloon, cut us up in the nine-inch deep slush that is beginning to freeze.

## SATURDAY

A historian's paper on "Buffalo Jones and the conquest of the East African frontier" enlivens the last session. It records the successful efforts of a 67-year-old frontiersman to reenact the triumphs of the American West, and engenders an optimism in all of us despite the regret that I and other overseas visitors feel at the thought that

Such leagues apart the world's ends are like to meet no more. Like Buffalo Jones, it is time for us to test ourselves against the elements. The snow is still falling, the weather service reports our road is open but "snowy and slick".

## SUNDAY

Sunny weather again. I spend the morning marking some test papers. Interim tests are more frequent here than in Swansea, but easier than grading essays once I remember to mark out of a genuine 100 instead of an effective 75. In the afternoon we drive north to Medicine Bow, back-dropped to Own Wister's *The Virginian*. On the way we pass Bosler, a former mining centre now almost ghosted. Snow has drifted above window height against the abandoned dwellings, which are more numerous than those still lived in. At Medicine Bow there is, so I have been promised, a bar with bat-wing doors. *The Virginian* hotel and saloon is a sand-coloured slab against the sky, and the only multi-storied building in sight. Hands at holster level, I shoulder my way through the doors. For more than 40 years I have watched this on celluloid: now I can reach out and touch it.

## John Sabine

The author is lecturer in the department of political theory and government at University College, Swansea, and is present visiting professor at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.



An intriguing mixture of foreign and Ptolemaic influences met MPs as student hostesses from Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology entertained them to a show of the college's fashion, food and other creative activities in the baronial splendour of the House of Commons.

## Gwent reconsiders extra class load

by David Jobbins

Labour leaders of Gwent County Council were this week reconsidering their decision to impose extra teaching hours on 410 lecturers in the face of top level political pressure and threats of industrial action that would hit exams throughout the county.

Condemnation of the plan to sack lecturers who refuse to accept an extra one or two hours a week class contact has come not only from the lecturers' union but now from the county Labour Party.

A resolution from the county party likening the council's action to the "blackmail tactics" used by the Government at the Cheltenham communications headquarters was on the agenda for a meeting of the Labour group on Wednesday.

The council's annual meeting was also taking place on Wednesday, offering the opportunity of an announcement that the notices to the 350 or so who have refused new contracts from September 1 had been lifted.

## Cooperation on YTS 'not necessary'

by Patricia Santinelli

The Government may force the Manpower Services Commission to implement the White Paper *Training for Jobs* on its own if local authorities cooperation is not forthcoming, says the commission's chairman, Mr David Young, has warned.

Speaking after a meeting of MSC commissioners, who were said to be unanimous about the need to set up a partnership with the local authorities, Mr Young said he would prefer to have their agreement.

"But if the worst comes to the worst we shall be given the money at whatever we shall have to go about."

The commission is obviously preparing for such a contingency for its plans to brief some of its area managers on objectives for 1985/86. The briefing includes non-advanced further education, its nature and development which can be encouraged.

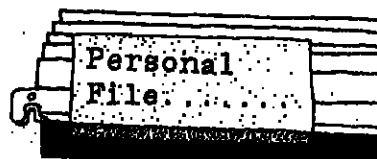
Under the White Paper proposals funding and responsibility for YTS is to be transferred from the local authorities to the MSC.

The commissioners have postponed any decision or detailed discussion of the White Paper because it was felt that the local authorities would surround the table, although they were still in discussions with ministers, said Mr Young.

However, it is being claimed in the quarters that the real reason is that the out of the nine commissioners opposed to the White Paper proposals and that this is unlikely to be resolved by their next meeting in June.

The local government white collar union is on the verge of about turning its hard line policy towards the Youth Training Scheme.

The executive of the National Local Government Officers Association hopes to reverse existing policy against cooperation with YTS which will fail to pay the rate for the job, which is to ask this year's conference, which begins in Brighton next week, to "immediate improvements" in YTS.



Personal File

1962. His first task however was "a decent book about company law".

He clearly succeeded. Fellow law academics praise it particularly for academic and practical concerns.

One of his passions is travel and he has spent many years on and off in Africa as an adviser on legal education, drawing up a company code in Ghana from 1958 to 1962 and from 1962 to 1965 as professor and dean of the law faculty at Lagos University in Nigeria.

After those "exciting times" caught in the early troubles which closed the university, but students and staff in opposite camps, and led to the Nigerian civil war, Professor Gower returned to more peaceful times as a law commissioner.

In 1971 he went to Southampton as vice-chancellor but plays down any

## Between tipstaff and quango

The theme, entirely unofficial of course, of last weekend's annual conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education in the concrete car-park wasteland of Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre could be described as total schizophrenia.

The symptoms of this complaint are alternating hot flushes of resistance rhetoric and cold shivers of (collaborationist?) corporatism. All trade union leaderships try to regulate the balance of these symptoms but few as successfully as Natfhe's.

On the three issues that mattered - the National Advisory Body, the Council for National Academic Awards, and the Manpower Services Commission - the shivers suppressed the flushes. On the two that didn't matter - the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (what? not this year, but sometime/never) - the flushes overcame the shivers.

Not that there should be any misunderstanding. The CNA's decision to rank polytechnic and college courses was rankly condemned, and from the platform. Awful warnings of "the long night" that would follow if the council allowed itself to become another arm of the ever-mighty state had to compete with ritual rhetoric about being crushed between the tipstaff and the quango.

If the delegates did not always get as excited as they should, it may have been because they all knew that Natfhe and the CNA have been locked together by a higher political logic.

The relationship between Natfhe and the NAB is very similar. Not surprisingly therefore the NAB's treatment was almost as lenient. Of course its preliminary cull of 12 small colleges was unanimously condemned but it was only the lightest of slaps on the wrist.

When Natfhe's general secretary Peter Dawson in his address to conference said: "This year I intend to speak only very briefly about the National Advisory Body", there was a loud cry of "good". Yet two years ago in Newcastle Natfhe's very participation in the NAB seemed in jeopardy. Times change. Perhaps the Natfhe-NAB axis is a tribute to the skill of that lurking lobbyist, John Davan, NAB's secretary, who never misses a Natfhe conference.

On the MSC the going was a bit rougher but the result almost the same. Despite the provocation of the White Paper *Training for Jobs*, there was never a serious chance that Natfhe would boycott, or urge the Trades Union Congress to boycott, the MSC.

All this left some delegates querulous and a little restive. One compared Natfhe's attitude to the MSC (it could just as well have been the NAB or the CNA) to "an anxious dog snarling and wagging its tail at the same time."

On future pay strategy the association's leaders suffered a rare setback. They failed to persuade the conference to degut a Yorkshire and Humberside region resolution calling for the unification of all lecturer pay scales and the abolition of head of department scales (and of heads of department, one exuberant leftist almost suggested).

But it probably didn't matter. Natfhe's 1984 salary settlement has been unblemished by the teacher's unexpected militancy. Its 1985 claim is rallying round the soggy cry "resist the Clegg/Wood relativities (re-member 'rectify the anomaly')". So the longer term salary policy shades into the metaphysical.

Perhaps the final word, on pay and money everything else, should go to some *satirical* satire distributed at the conference. It front cover simply said: "Global peace, end of world war, L1-L2 merger... Not another Natfhe conference!"

It rejected a demand for a panel of equal numbers of black and white union members to investigate the extent of racism within the union.

Peter Scott

## Karen Gold and David Jobbins on Natfhe's conference in Birmingham Campaign to resist transfers

Natfhe members will resist the transfer of courses from one college to another as part of an anti-concentration policy, the conference agreed.

The union's national executive is to draw up a programme of action against concentration, after members condemned it as policy and rejected "political pressures for a narrower concentration of courses and provision as part of the programme of cuts in higher education."

Proposing the motion, Mr John Clarke, (Manchester Polytechnic) said that there must be action to stop work being moved from one place to another. "It's essential that we don't allow other people's work to be moved to ourselves; we mustn't get into the situation of grabbing other people's work," he said.

An emergency motion on the current National Advisory Body review of the viability of 12 diversified teacher training colleges repeated the conference's support for diverse provision.

The motion, carried without opposition, opposed the present NAB review as ill-timed and its consultation period as ludicrously short, and said that it should be expressed concern at the increasing number of national and regional bodies regulating teacher education, and instructed Natfhe's national executive to press for a properly coordinated teacher education planning process.

The Council for National Academic Awards must respond to feelings in the colleges about NAB exercises such as the diversified college one and last year's town planning exercise, said Mr Roger Adams (National Executive Committee).

The conference passed a motion welcoming CNA's contribution to the establishment and maintenance of standards in the public sector, but deploring the role played by CNA in

the 1984/85 NAB exercise and calling on CNA to reconsider its policy of participating in the ranking of courses.

"This resolution needs to publicly blow the whistle on those who would see the CNA's role as some kind of academic supergrass," said Mr Frank Griffiths (NEC). "The ranking of courses that took place in town and country planning was an absolute disgrace. It legitimized academically what were no more than political decisions to cut courses and areas of work."

In adult education motions Natfhe deplored the cuts in adult education, the restrictions on study imposed on those claiming social security, and the imposition of value added tax on adult education classes. It called for financial support and provision for all adults, the unemployed, the retired and prematurely retired, women seeking to enter or re-enter the education or employment system, and ethnic minorities.

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scales to be fully integrated into teaching scales.

Ms Liz Surry (Inner London) criticized variations in earnings across the country. A researcher in Manchester would earn more in his/her first year than one in inner London on their third, she said. And Mr Brian Pinto (Outer London) claimed that 50 per cent of Natfhe's research staff members, largely in London and the south-east, were on points below the Lecturer 1 scale.

Mr Pinto added: "The high turnover of research staff which arises from the absence of a career structure is inefficient and wasteful of talent and skills. Valuable experience is bled away from the polytechnics to feed private industry and the universities."

The debate about a policy for 1985 and beyond was inevitably overshadowed by the current dispute over the rejected 1984 offer. There was little or no criticism of the negotiators for recommending acceptance of the 4 per cent plus £330 for some offer.

But general secretary Mr Peter Dawson warned: "The employers don't give more money easily. They don't give it because Peter Dawson and Natfhe conference say they should or because schoolteachers with rather different objectives are waging a magnificent fight. They will give it because our members are prepared to act."

To give £10,000 to the NUM in support of their battle against pit closures.

The steering committee suggested the motion was too controversial to meet the test required of an emergency motion because some members would take exception to its attack on police tactics and the withdrawal of social security payments from miners' families. An executive emergency motion, which would have been taken if the conference had rejected Mr Grieft's, merely noted Natfhe's support for the NUM and called for further backing for official actions.

Mr Grieft said his son, a striking miner, had been asked by police language and the way they tried to provoke him into doing "something foolish" and attacking the police.

The motion gave full support to the executive's decision three weeks ago

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## Government 'is illogical'

Government policies for economic regeneration and the future of public sector post-school education are "logically inconsistent," Natfhe president Mr Cecil Robinson (above) told the conference.

"There can be no question that economic development and progress require a well-educated and properly trained workforce. Equally there can be no question that the main burden of providing that workforce is a responsibility of the local education authorities," he said.

"Yet the Government seems hell bent on reducing the capability of the education service at all levels and relying instead on an unproven, and probably mythical, set of market forces to provide."

The only result would be the growth of "bucket shop" training establishments operated by people of little skill or experience, but out to make a quick buck by courtesy of Her Majesty's Government and the Manpower Services Commission.

Mr Robinson was succeeded as president by Mr Bill Hoad, who teaches at Birmingham Polytechnic.

## Courses

## THE BRITISH COUNCIL

## International Specialist Course

## Management in Universities: an International Seminar

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The objectives of the seminar are to consider the impact upon management at the institutional level in higher education of changes in the external environment - political, social, economic, demographic etc - and of developments in management theory and practices.

The seminar will consider:-

The external pressures upon universities and similar institutions of higher education; the nature of universities as organisations; the recent experience of university management in a number of different countries; the roles of external agencies in assisting universities to cope in changed circumstances; ways in which the universities might respond to the challenges of improving their management in terms of decision-making structures, policy formulation and planning and administrative practices.

The Director of Studies will be Dr Geoffrey Lockwood, Registrar and Secretary of the University of Sussex.

Qualifications of members

The seminar is designed for those senior members of universities and similar institutions of higher education who are involved in management - Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, Chairmen of major committees, Heads of Departments, senior administrative officers - and for senior officials in other agencies concerned with higher education such as national ministries, local or regional government.

There are vacancies for 30 participants.

Fee £630 (Residential only).

Venue and accommodation

This is a residential seminar. Sessions will take place at the Short Course Centre in Eastbourne. Participants will also be accommodated at the Centre.

Further information and application forms for this, and other British Council specialist courses, can be obtained from your local British Council office or from the Director, Courses Department, The British Council, 65 Davies Street, London W1V 6AA.



## Scottish unions form joint lobby

by Olga Wojtas  
Scottish Correspondent

Scotland's three higher education unions have taken a march on the Government and set up a joint lobby just as the chairmanship and terms of reference of the long-awaited Tertiary Education Advisory Committee are thought to be on the point of announcement.

The unions have said they intend to set up their own joint working party to lobby the government on higher educational needs. The Association of Lecturers in Colleges of Education in Scotland, The Association of Lecturers in Scottish Central Institutions and the Association of University Teachers (Scotland) held a joint seminar last week, the first time all three unions have met together.

They have issued a statement saying the present proposals for STEAC "do not meet the needs of Scotland for a major review and proper coordination of higher education provision".

Mr Jack Dale, secretary of ALSCI, said: "The membership of STEAC is entirely nominated by the Secretary of State for Scotland, and there is no guarantee it will be representative. It has no financial remit whatsoever, unlike the National Advisory Body in England."

The seminar was warned in a discussion document by Mr David Bleiman and Dr Sandy Young of the AUT that there were dangers for Scottish university intakes since STEAC had no university remit.

There was mounting concern among the Scottish universities that with no NAB equivalent, and a poor record of policy coordination between the University Grants Committee and the Scottish Education Department over the recent expansion of students numbers, "the Scottish universities could lose out in an expected further round of spending cuts", said the document.

It firmly rejected SED predictions of a large fall in demand for higher education from school-leavers by the mid-1990s, claiming this ignored the rising female participation rate, increasing numbers staying on at school and higher demand from mature students.

The SED projections posed a two-fold threat to higher education, since they could first be used to justify cuts already intended for economic policy reasons and second would give the Government the opportunity "to set the universities and non-university colleges, in particular the central institutions, at each other's throat".

Unless the parameters the Government was seeking to establish were decisively shattered, said the document, "there would be an unseemly battle for students between the universities and the enlarged group of central institutions which would make the whole of Scottish higher education easy meat for the cutting knife".

You can always tell when the Alliance is doing well. The better we do the more strongly we get attacked. Since the council elections the old parties have stepped up their attacks significantly. Labour in particular has been mounting vitriolic attacks, especially against David Owen. These attacks and the increasingly unrealistic attempts to write us off or divide us confirm that the Alliance is now a major threat to the old two party system.

The two old parties had hoped to kill our challenges before the European campaign started. The council elections provided them with the opportunity to attack the Alliance. Indeed, Labour and Conservative leaders not for the first time formed an unholy act by arranging to hold all three Parliamentary by-elections on the same day. The hope was that the Alliance's resources and message would be spread too thinly.

## A form guide to walking, talking organisms

by Jon Turney  
Science Correspondent

Will structuralism have the same impact on biology as already seen in linguistics, anthropology or literary criticism? Professor Brian Goodwin of the Open University believes it will. But he is having trouble convincing his fellow scientists.

However, Professor Goodwin's answer to the key biological question - why organisms take the forms they do - seems sure to prompt controversy, if not necessarily the transformation of the subject he seeks.

He explored the roots of the controversy last week with Professor John Maynard Smith, in the third debate on Limits of Science organized by the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London and the Science Policy Foundation.

Maynard Smith, professor at Sussex University and the leading British evolutionary theorist, and Goodwin are old sparring partners so they could define their differences quite precisely. And they turned out to be as much about styles of thought and

defining what counts as an explanation as about the nature of organisms.

Take primates - mammals, with four limbs, five fingers and toes and a backbone apiece. These forms are shared with a whole range of animals, and, of course, we have them too. Why? As Maynard Smith admitted, there is no design requirement that says this is a sensible way of building a walking, talking, tool-using creature.

The Darwinian answer is that organisms with these features evolved from a common ancestor, adapted for swimming underwater. It isn't yet a complete answer, but a full account of this process will be developed from Darwinian theory, Maynard Smith holds.

Not good enough, says Goodwin. This is only a historical explanation - about as satisfying as explaining the Earth's elliptical orbit round the sun in 1984 by pointing to the path it took in 1983 and the year before that. A proper scientist would look for an exact explanation, "John usually accuses me of physics envy at this point".

Goodwin believes the explanation will lie in laws

of organic form. Natural selection only has a choice of forms to choose from, and that choice is dictated by "an underlying order which constrains the inherent properties of the living state".

This sort of thing makes a good Darwinian uncomfortable. "I think that Brian has always been a content to see diversity, contingency, a historical accident behind the shape of the world."

In the end, the two biologists' views are based on different conceptions of life. Professor Maynard Smith stresses reproduction, heredity and variation as the characteristics of life; Goodwin sees organization as paramount.

And as the apostle of a new approach, Professor Goodwin wants to mount a research programme which will uncover the structural rules at all levels of organization, a single cell, a fruit-fly's wing, thought and language, wherever life is found. Maynard Smith's final word, in essence, was that Darwinism had been highly productive for 125 years and was far from exhausted yet.

## news in brief

### Court votes on poly director

The field of candidates for the Polytechnic of Central London has narrowed to two: Professor Terence Burlin, the acting rector, and former Labour MP Mr Christopher Price. The polytechnic will vote on the two candidates on 11 June. The Inner London Education Authority has removed the names of Professor Burlin and Mr Price from the list of candidates.

### Initiation begins

Ministers are expected to approve Technical Vocational Education Initiative projects in the 22 local authorities whose bids were rejected earlier this year by the early round at the latest.

The 22 authorities are: Barnet, Bexley, Bromley, Calderdale, Dagenham, Gateshead, Harrogate, Haringey, Kent, Kingston-upon-Thames, Merton, North Yorkshire, Oxfordshire, Redbridge, Rochdale, Solihull, Waltham Forest, Walsall, Walsley, Wiltshire and Wolverhampton.

### Fees problem

No more Nigerian or Iranian students are to be allowed to enrol in Strathclyde Region's colleges unless they can prove they have sufficient funds to support themselves and pay their fees. Strathclyde region council's further education sub-committee voted for the ban after hearing that 170 students from the two countries had financial difficulties because of problems transferring funds.

### UGC post

Professor John Sizer, professor of financial management at Loughborough University, has been appointed to the University Grants Committee for five years, from May 1984.

### Correction

In the feature on Bedford Youth Training Scheme which appeared in the issue of May 18, the amount stated as being allocated for staff development should have read £18,000 and not £80,000.

### Brooke promises rethink on ECA grant

A reexamination of the withdrawal of grant aid to the Educational Centres' Association has been promised by Mr Peter Brooke, minister of higher education.

But in announcing the decision in parliament last week, Mr Brooke warned that all similar voluntary educational organizations receiving grants from the Department of Education and Science could expect "regular and rigorous" reviews of funding in the future. He also cautioned ECA supporters not to be over-optimistic about the results of the reexamination process.

The ECA aims to represent students, tutors and administrators in adult education, and encourages students to take an active participatory role in course provision. In March the association was informed that its grant was to be phased out by 1988.

The debate on the ECA, which followed the marathon 32-hour sitting

## Labour students lose voice

by David Jobbins

Labour students are being rendered politically ineffective by the abandonment of their annual conference amid internecine feuding.

An inquiry has been set up into the termination of the National Organization of Labour Students, meeting in Hull in April.

In the meantime the only elected officer in its chair, Mr John Mann, whose term of office expires next month. The conference ended before elections could be completed, and after June responsibility will devolve to NOLS national organizer Mr John Dennis, who is its permanent secretary and a Labour Party salaried official.

NOLS leaders admit the organization's work is being hampered by the absence of a national committee but Mr Dennis says: "We are drawing up plans to ensure that materials are available to student Labour clubs for recruiting purposes at the beginning of the next academic year."

"This is our priority and we are confident clubs will have these."

There are conflicting versions of the events which led Mr Dennis to abandon the conference, and the inquiry has already received a lot of accounts from delegates. The row centred on the validity of some affiliation and attempts by supporters of the Militant Tendency to challenge rulings.

Internal dissent cannot have come at a worse time for the Democratic Left, the successors of Clause Four, the faction that controls NOLS and provides the leadership of the National Union of Students.

It has convinced the parent party of its effectiveness as a campaigning organization and in beating off the Militant "threat".

It is unlikely that a new leadership will be elected before November or even December, when the conference is to be reconvened under whatever guidelines the inquiry recommends.

The inquiry, to be carried out by the party's appeals committee chaired by Mr Kenneth Cure, is expected to report in July.

But critics of the leadership are sceptical about the outcome of the inquiry. They point out that in one of its few interventions in the affairs of the party, the appeals committee ratified the expulsion of the Militant editorial board.

An alternative rejected by a narrow majority on the national executive was for an inquiry composed of the chairman of the party, organizations and youth committees.

This was supported by the hard left members of the NEC led by Mr Dennis Skinner and Miss Joan Maynard but was rejected by 14 votes to 12.

## IT response is 'too slow'

by Jon Turney  
Science Correspondent

Universities are not responding fast enough to the growth in demand for student places in computer science and other new technologies, Sir Peter Swinnerton Dyer, chairman of the Universities Grants Committee, admitted last week.

Sir Peter was fielding questions from a subcommittee of the House of Lords select committee on science and technology, inquiring into supply of qualified people for new technology industries.

Initially, he maintained that the main bottleneck on supply was the number of prospective students leaving school with the right A levels. He argued that there was no point in expanding provision for engineering students faster than the number of bright people seeking to qualify. "We did this in the 1970s and had egg all over our faces, and empty laboratories", he said.

However, under close questioning from Lord Scanlon he conceded that

demand in electronic engineering, maths and computer science was growing much faster than in other disciplines, and there was now a shortage of places. He suggested that there were enough places in the universities and polytechnics combined, but the committee chairman, Lord Gregson, replied that Sir Peter was dodging the issue.

Sir Peter believed the 1981 university cuts were responsible for the present shortage, as teachers in these disciplines had been allowed to leave. "In retrospect, I believe the UGC should have been more dirigiste", he said. But he did not believe that he would have acted differently at the time, as the climate of opinion had shifted.

He also anticipated a shortage of recruits for university teaching staff in information technology disciplines. The new blood initiative had gone smoothly in the first year, but in the second year, departments were unhappy with the applications and the third year might well be disastrous. But Sir Peter dismissed Lord Scan-

lon's suggestion that this implied a case for differential salaries for IT lecturers. "Salary differentials in clinical medicine have caused more bitterness than I care to think about", he said. In any case, lecturers in IT had more chance to boost their income with outside work.

Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of the National Advisory Body board, backed Sir Peter's suggestion that there were enough IT places in higher education as a whole. He made a strong plea for unified planning. Pointing to the increase in IT places in polytechnics, he said: "If you were to persuade Sir Peter to make a shift in provision, it would undo much of the good work we have done."

Both Sir Peter and Mr Ball urged the select committee to consider quality as well as quantity. The UGC's written evidence to the committee argued that a 10 per cent shift of university places in favour of engineering and science - the declared aim of the Secretary of State for Education, Sir Keith Joseph - would mean a drop in entry standards.

## Commission considers longer YTS

by Patricia Santinelli

The Manpower Services Commission is considering running a two-year Youth Training Scheme, but as yet does not have any idea what the second year's content should be, Mr David Young MSC chairman announced last week.

Mr Young said the MSC commissioners were also considering linking negotiations for the block grant to managing agents with that for the trainees allowances. Currently these take place some six months apart.

The MSC chairman denied that he was concerned about the failure of the CBI and local authorities to reach agreement on a national rate for further education fees paid to colleges running YTS. He thought it would be possible to come to individual local arrangements.

The number of entrants to YTS from April 30 was 5,799 as opposed to 3,000 at the same times last year.

He rejected any suggestion that there was significance in figures showing that the majority of entrants were for Mode B1 schemes, those run by local authorities and voluntary agencies. He said that Easter school-leavers tended to gravitate towards this scheme rather than any other.

Entrants to Mode B1 schemes totalled 2,829, those for Mode A at 1,909 and for Mode B at 141.

Denham Court and the Wandsworth Training Workshop, both of which were threatened with closure under national cuts being made to Mode B1 provision have been reprieved.

But the Oldfield Training Workshop at Ealing is to be closed and development on the Wandsworth Information Technology Centre postponed. The reprieves and the cuts were decided at a meeting of the London South and West Area Manpower Board which reached unanimous agreement on the distribution of 770 Mode B1 places for 1984/85. At a previous meeting on April 11 the board had been unable to agree on any reductions.

A plea for a return to the ethos and objectives of the Youth Task Group report which provided a blueprint for the Youth Training Scheme was made yesterday May 31 by an MSC official.

Speaking at Coombe Lodge Further Education College, Mr Mick Farley, currently on secondment from the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education as MSC's YTS quality adviser for the south east said it was crucially important to reaffirm support for the report.

"It is of more than passing interest that the Youth Task Group report was clear that the scheme must engage the full support of the local education authorities". It is timely to remind the world outside education of this."

Full support was unlikely if local education authorities found themselves penalized for spending on YTS and denied a say in policy decisions which transfer resources and power away from them to the MSC. Nor was such support likely if i.e.a.s found themselves in deficit as a consequence of any provision they made for other managing agents.



## Flogging the exhausted horse...

If the present dispute over teachers' salaries has shown anything, it is the truth of the adage "bad management makes for strong unions".

Despite the unwise remarks made in some quarters about teachers behaving "unprofessionally", it is possible that no leader among the teacher unions contemplated any enthusiasm among their members for industrial action. Faced with the decline in their salaries relative to the cost of living over the last few years, most teachers may have thought that theirs was a shared misery. Besides (and the author writes as chairman of a parent-teacher association) teachers would have sought almost any excuse to avoid harming their pupils and students.

Then the derisory offer made to school teachers awakened them to their plight. Suddenly press and television were making the public aware of bizarre comparisons between teachers' and others' salaries which the teachers themselves had not realized. Suddenly teachers realized that their decline in living standards is not a shared misery, but rather that, while year after year their salaries have fallen behind the cost of living, the national average earnings had surged ahead.

There have, of course, been suggestions that teachers should not be allowed to go on strike, and many teachers might approve such a proposition, though probably not a majority. But the corollary of a "no-strike" agreement is automatic arbitration. It is the combination of the derisory offer, of doubtful remarks about teachers' worth and teachers' professionalism and the denial of access to arbitration, that have ensured the fact (if not the active support of the large majority of teachers for industrial action of some sort).

Not surprisingly, events in the schools have caused a rethink in further and higher education. The settlement of 4 per cent (plus a special rise to bring the lecturer 1 scale to within two points of the senior lecturer scale) may never have had a majority in the Burnham Further Education Committee. The Association of Polytechnic Teachers urged on both the teachers and the management the need for arbitration of their claim because, in recent years, recourse to arbitration would have given higher overall settlements even if it would not have permitted the jugglery needed to squeeze the diffidence, a process so dear to the FE lecturers.

Four of the five unions on Burnham FE did not accept the settlement, but the majority union imposed a three-line whip.

The refusal by the school teachers to settle on an offer greater than 4 per cent had naturally caused a reassessment.

The reinstatement of the right of teachers automatically to go to arbitration may now appear to the local authorities (and the Department of Education and Science) as a desirable alternative to annual strife, for teachers and lecturers have been clearly shown what rewards they may (or may not) expect for professionalism and restraint.

The management (and the public in general) would do well to remember the story of the farmer who tried to teach his horse to work without food: he had almost succeeded when the animal up and died. Sadly, the same effect may be achieved with the caring professional teacher.

A. J. Pounton

The author is national secretary of the Association of Polytechnic Teachers.



This portrait of Phyllis, Lady Bowden, president of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, was painted by Michael Neufuss and is among several pictures that the artist is showing at an exhibition of Royal Society of Portrait Painters at the Mall Galleries, London.

## External system 'needs to change'

by Ngao Crequer

The universities' external examiner system needs radical change, according to a report of the staff development group of the Society for Research into Higher Education.

In evidence to the Reynolds committee on academic standards, set up by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, the SRHE group says it is not sufficient just to check abuses of the system.

In a survey of group members, five of which replied, there was agreement that "the weaknesses overwhelmingly outweigh the strengths." The strengths were informality of interaction, critical comment without public humiliation and cross-check on standards. The weaknesses were lack of public accountability, lack of uniformity, focus on product rather than process, and ignorance of assessment theory. Improvements offered were public accountability, clearer framework of responsibility, scrutiny of curricula, and training in curriculum theory and practice.

The group said there was "considerable scepticism" concerning the effectiveness of the system in maintaining

and monitoring academic quality and standards. There was a strong consensus that some form of external monitoring was needed, and respondents mentioned both Her Majesty's Inspectors, and the Council for National Academic Awards.

All agreed that external examiners needed some form of training. "It should be provided by a team that includes educational development specialists, who now exist in a number of universities, as well as experienced and knowledgeable examiners. Such advice or training might be more acceptable, if it was carried out through self-study at a distance."

There was agreement that external examiners should monitor the teaching and learning process of a degree course.

The groups comments that examiners concentrate on written examinations, "which rarely assess adequately higher order cognitive abilities and attitudinal aims."

Other remarks made were that there should be a balance between insider and outsider control, and there should be more training for all university teachers.

## Peace studies critics renew the attack

The battle over peace studies was restarted this week with the publication of a new monograph which claims the subject is "intellectually void".

The monograph, entitled *A Critical Survey*, is by Dr Roger Scruton, reader in philosophy at Birkbeck College, London, and Baroness Caroline Cox, former director of the nursing education research unit at London University, published by the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, a mainly right-wing educational charity.

The authors are particularly critical

of the Bradford University school of peace studies, which they claim fails to pass the test justifying the nature and value of the subject as a university discipline. They go on to accuse the school of making "important direct contributions" to the massive movement to introduce peace studies into schools.

The authors say that whenever a new subject is "invented" a new kind of graduate is produced who leaves university in search of profitable employment. Staff at the Bradford School were extremely surprised by the criticism as

no formal visit was made by either of the authors, and no discussions about the work and motivations of the staff, or the jobs found by peace studies graduates, took place.

Dr Paul Rogers, senior lecturer in the school, said he had not seen the monograph, but it did seem a "methodological inexactitude" that no visits or talks took place. The school did send its routine brochures to the Institute. *Peace Studies: A Critical Survey* by Caroline Cox and Roger Scruton, £2.50 from the IEDSS, 13/14 Golden Square, London W1.

## PARTY LINE

### A serious challenge in Europe

of votes between the three political groups. We came close to winning two seats and had a clear lead over Labour in the proportion of the total votes cast.

Our prospects for the European campaign are now good. Whereas the Alliance started the General Election with just 17 per cent in the opinion polls we are starting the European campaign with 23 per cent. There is every reason to believe that we can build on this base significantly. Time and again the Alliance has shown that it does much better in votes cast than the initial opinion polls predict. The opinion polls tend to reflect a too instinctive reaction of voters. The ballot box reflects a more considered opinion, formed after the parties and their policies have been more fully exposed to the electorate. The differential vote will almost certainly also work in our favour.

The Alliance, as the most strongly internationalist political group, will fight the campaign with the utmost vigour and enthusiasm. Mrs Thatcher retains a strident nationalistic approach to all foreigners. Labour still harbours deep hostility and suspicions towards Europe. In the General Election Labour promised to get out of Europe fast. Attempts have been made to fudge that commitment for the European elections, but the antagonism and suspicion remains. Only the Alliance feels comfortable in seeking wholeheartedly to build a strong Europe which can compete with the rest of the world in jobs and technology and provide greater stability and security both in economic and defence matters.

The strength of the Alliance has faced the parties with a difficult dilemma. On the one hand their hope is that we will win of neglect and lack of attention. It is therefore

in their interests that the European elections live up to their billing as yawn of the year. The less people think, the less likely they are to vote Alliance.

On the other hand the old parties cannot ignore what is clearly seen as a major threat. But should they attack and thereby draw attention to the threat or ignore us and hope we will fade from lack of publicity? In the last month there have been a spate of articles claiming anything from Dr Owen being a latter day Mosley to a pronouncement of the death of the Alliance. Such claims are a constant reassurance to us that we are seriously challenging the cosy old political cartel.

The two conflicting themes of neglect and attack were perfectly illustrated in the Commons last Tuesday and Wednesday when the Commons sat for a marathon 32 hours non-stop. At first the Conservatives and Labour tried sitting

ing up a deal between themselves which would cut out the Alliance and let them go to bed early.

The Alliance successfully challenged this attempt to curtail the debate on the abolition of elections for the metropolitan counties. The result was that neglect finally turned into vitriolic attack, which was exceptional even by the standards of the Commons.

The reality is that the old parties are going to have to learn to live with at least a three party system. The electorate has shown for a long time and dramatically in recent times that it is no longer happy with the old see-saw politics of the old parties. Even some Labour MPs are now accepting the new reality. Many of them do so in private but Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead, summed it up neatly when he wrote in the *Guardian*: "It is necessary for Labour to take on board the fact that we now live in a three party system... the Alliance isn't going to do the decent thing and fade away."

Ian Wrigglesworth

The author is Social Democrat MP for Stockton South.



## overseas news

## overseas news

## Universities 'depressive' says Finn

from Donald Fields

HELSINKI One of Finland's most distinguished thinkers, Professor Olli Ketonen, has created a stir by comparing universities with people so depressed that they are unable to analyze their inner selves, or let others do so. While his views, published in the weekly "Suomen Kuvalehti", were directed primarily at Helsinki and other Finnish universities, he said that they would be valid in many other countries.

Ketonen, a 71-year-old member of the Finnish Academy, who has held the philosophy chair at Helsinki maintained in the first of two articles that academic people were particularly prone to guilt feelings since they were perfectionists perturbed by their own mistakes, however minuscule. Referring to the forthcoming expiry of the act governing higher education in Finland, he accused both the universities and the ministry of education of failing to look the problems of scientific study in the face.

He argued that, with university staff deflected from their vital tasks of research and teaching by pointless paper work, a reform would hardly engender qualitative improvements - though it might please vested interests.

Following the diagnosis, Ketonen's second article suggested that a boost in available resources would almost certainly not improve the situation in the universities and the ministry were deeply embedded. Therefore some kind of sharp therapy was needed to get the "patient" back on his feet, standing on a realistic foundation.

He called for a thorough evaluation of research and teaching work, with neither subordinated to the other. Analyses should be honestly undertaken to reveal where decentralization, for example, has gone awry. The academic depression could be alleviated by greasing different disciplines to fix their priorities in terms of the future of the human race. On the practical side Finnish universities might discard some of their inbuilt conservatism by dispensing with vice-rectors, for every rector, vice deans for every dean.

Professor Ketonen said his diagnosis of "psychoses and paranoia" applied to many universities beyond Finland - as could his recipe for change. Times had changed since he was in Britain, but it seemed "very obvious" that British universities were going through great difficulties.

However, Professor Ketonen - who is heavily disturbed by the degree of dissatisfaction suddenly detected in his own country by some intellectuals and feels the universities have lost a vital human touch with the advance of bureaucratic regulation - praises Britain and the USA for their spirit of self-examination. In his article, he specifically names Britain as a country where universities have kept their autonomy and are pleased to admit outsiders, including those from abroad, to assess their own strong and weak points.

## Mural censored

A mural at America's only state-supported arts school has been whitewashed by college officials who claimed the work was insulting to Boston police cadets who use the campus in their training.

Student Michael Alevitz has depicted witnesses who claimed Boston police fatally shot a black teenager suspected of car theft. On a fourth panel is written: "Massachusetts College of Art provides free space for training the Boston police."

## Hungarian academy in move to democratize elections

The Hungarian Academy of Science is to democratize its election processes from next year. At least two candidates, it is hoped, will contest each elective post (president, vice president, presidium members) and tenure of these posts will be restricted to five years, renewable for a further five. Only in exceptional circumstances will a third consecutive term be permitted. In order to prepare for the 1985

## Overseas student numbers limit set

from Geoff Maslen

MELBOURNE The Australian Government has set a moratorium on any increase in the number of foreign students entering the country. Last week, the government announced it would restrict the number of new overseas students at schools and tertiary institutions in 1985 to the same number as this year. Most overseas students in Australia are from South-East Asia, the largest coming from Malaysia.

The government's decision comes at a time when the issue of Asian migration to this country is assuming considerable public and political controversy. For the past two months, the government has been under attack by some racist community groups and by the federal opposition, over its immigration policies which, some claim, are leading to the "Asianization" of Australia.

The debate was sparked by comments made by Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Dean of the arts faculty at the University of Melbourne and a noted Australian historian. Professor

Blainey claimed the Commonwealth was discriminating against European migrants in its immigration policies and allowing too great a proportion of Asians to enter the country. He warned that the government's migration program was ahead of public opinion and that the concentration of Asians in metropolitan suburbs - at a time of high unemployment - could cause outbursts of race hatred.

The government's decision to hold the number of foreign students entering Australia next year at 3,500 appears to be a concession to the campaign against Asian immigration. The government also seems to have balked at making a decision on long-term policy on overseas student numbers while the migration debate continues and the opposition is making some headway against the government on the issue.

A statement from the minister for immigration, the minister for foreign affairs, and the minister for education, said the number of places offered to overseas students reflected a balance between Australia's desire to assist

other countries and the demands of local students for tertiary places. The ministers said any new policies would be delayed until next year, when students would be applying to come to Australia for the 1986 academic year. As it was too late to implement new arrangements for 1985 entry, it had been further agreed that the overseas student intake for 1985 would be carried out under existing arrangements and procedures.

For a country which has its very origins in migration, and which has relied on the massive intake of Europeans in the post-war years, Australia seems to have a history of greeting each new wave of migrants with antagonism. From the "whingeing Poms" of England to the "Dagoes" of Italy and Malta, Australians have poured scorn on each new group of settlers, finally accepting them in a grudging sort of way.

But fears of Asianization - either on the higher education campuses or on the streets of the capital cities - are not borne out by statistics. Asians still

account for only 2 per cent of the Australian population and the immigration intake has increased less than 4 per cent since 1970. From its starting point with the free immigration debate, including the proportion should be admitted to the country, the issue has snowballed into a most contentious issue of the moment. It brings into question the integrity with humanitarian attitudes to refugees and a preparedness to help world countries train their leaders.

The issue of access for Asian students is being pressed in Singapore, Malaysia where the Australian minister, Mr Bob Hawke, had a recent visit. But with at least 500 qualified Australian students leaving each year for lack of places, it is not to the competition between Commonwealth students and those of other countries that the issue is being pressed.

## Trouble flares in S Africa

from Carolyn Dempster

JOHANNESBURG Trouble flared at four South African universities this week in a series of boycotts, sit-ins and violent demonstrations. The universities were the University of Cape Town, the University of Port Harcourt, the University of Natal and the University of the Transkei.

Following the arrest and subsequent detention of four lecturers at the University of Transkei (UNITAS) last week, the entire student representative council has gone into a full-scale strike. On May 22 the remainder of the full-time students body held a meeting in a park in central Umtata, the "capital" of Transkei.

A police force of between 30 and 40 men, armed with batons and tear gas, dispersed the meeting and Transkei's emergency legislation which prohibits public gatherings. Altogether 150 students were arrested for contravention of the legislation and are still in detention.

Reports of collusion between the university authorities and the Transkei police were confirmed in Johannesburg this week by Mr Robert Morrell, one of the four lecturers deported from the homeland. He said that Professor Van Der Merwe refused to ask the state why the lecturers were being deported. Reasons given by the university were that the matter was "nothing to do with the university".

In separate incidents at the University of Port Harcourt, students boycotted lectures for three days. Grievances revolved around the upcoming graduation ceremony and the security situation in the university.

In the face of the reluctance of the university authorities to listen to their demands, students staged at three-day sit-in demonstration. At the University of the North (Turfloop) students held a week-long mass sit-in to voice their opposition to a "congested exam timetable" and demanded the dismissal of an economics lecturer. The timetable was extended to accommodate the students' demands, and the lecturer was returned to lectures.

Professor P.C. Mokgongwe, who took to investigate the students' grievances regarding the economics lecturer.

At the University of Cape Town, the shortage of accommodation for black students gave rise to a heated confrontation between the students and the university administration during the course of the week. The turmoil has elicited fears that South Africa may be heading for another education crisis, following the indefinite closure of six schools in Atteridgeville, Pretoria and wide unrest in at least four other areas.



Varying popularity for Robbins, Narayan and Rushdie

## English dominates Indian publishing

India is the world's third largest publisher of books in English. Forty per cent of titles produced there in 1981/82 were in that language. A striking figure, given that only 2.3 per cent of Indians - the 15 million or so who are literate in English - can read them. This paradox lies at the heart of the Indian publishing industry, and indeed of modern Indian culture.

The dominance of English dates from the colonial period, but it has not diminished in the slightest since independence. Its hold is guaranteed by the refusal of non-Hindi speaking areas to accept Hindi as a substitute national language (modern "literary" Hindi is to some extent itself an artificial creation of the late nineteenth century) and of course by its prestige as the principal international language.

In its relation to the publishing industry, the position of English is above all linked to its role in university education, the greater part of which still takes place in English (as the language of reading and writing if not always of teaching). The lack of vernacular text books, original or translated, encourages this, and this in turn ensures that English will continue to dominate Indian publishing, for the vast majority of books produced in India are "programmed" to fit particular school or university courses. The state keeps a monopoly of school textbook production, a cause of bitter complaint among publishers and one reason for their low profits.

Imports and reprints of English and American books also continue to be very important. In 1980, about Rs250m (£17m) out of a total annual turnover of around Rs500m in Indian publishing came from this source (and an estimated Rs60m is owed abroad).

Several of the biggest and most prestigious publishers in India are subsidiaries of or have close links with international firms - Oxford University Press, Wiley Eastern, Macmillans. The primacy of English is also encouraged by the increasing trade in the opposite direction - in English language textbooks written and produced in India and then exported, mainly but not entirely to other Third World countries. Wiley Eastern has made a particular success of this: 30 per cent of its annual turnover comes from this source and it has also sold the rights for translation of Indian textbooks into Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish.

Another field of major achievement has been the production (especially by OUP and Vikas) of academic works outside the textbook field. The fact

that India is now by far the greatest international producer of books (and the best books) on South Asian history may seem natural enough, but it was not the case 15 years ago. This development owes much to certain Indian publishers as well as to the quality of Indian historical research.

The overwhelming importance of "programmed" and "trade" books is due to the lack of a market for fiction in India. To a great extent, this is the result of poverty and illiteracy, officially estimated at 64 per cent of the population. People simply cannot afford to buy "unnecessary" books. As important, since there are many who could afford books but don't buy them, are the continuing cultural effects of the British conquest. The English language decapitated India's own literary traditions without itself striking deep enough roots to act as a real substitute.

Thus at the popular level, pirated editions of Harold Robbins and his ilk continue to provide the greatest profits; while the wealthy English-speaking elite shuns serious Indian fiction (whether in English or Indian languages) and gets what literary culture it requires direct from the West. Success and publication in the West are a great boost for an Indian author, for example, doesn't sell nearly as well in India as his reputation here would have led one to expect.

Publishers too must bear their share of the blame for the lack of book consciousness in modern India. The absence of a more determined promotion and sales drives is partly dictated by lack of capital. Profit margins are low (around 5 per cent), books won't give liberal credit and it takes a very long time to recover one's money from the hopelessly inadequate distribution system. Nonetheless, the recent example of the success of Salman Rushdie's *Shame* in India shows that if conditions are right and press coverage extensive enough, fiction can sell extremely well. (Rupa printed 20,000 copies and expects to sell them all; moreover it is a real tribute.) The tremendous growth of Vikas publishers under the leadership of Narendra Kumar also shows that a more aggressive attitude to promotion can make a big difference. By emerging from their rather narrow and timid altitudes, and trying to do more in the future, Indian publishers could do much to stimulate a more vigorous literary culture in their country.

Anatol Lieven

## Staff boycott Reagan degree ceremony

from John Walshe

DUBLIN About a quarter of the academic staff at University College, Galway is expected to boycott a ceremony tomorrow during which President Reagan will be conferred with an honorary degree.

Among them will be Marion Robinson, a professor of middle English at San Jose State University in California, who has been on an exchange visit to Galway since January. A stern critic of US foreign policy, Professor Robinson is a second cousin of Mrs Nancy Reagan.

Professor Robinson says the idea of giving a degree of any kind to President Reagan is ludicrous. "Whatever he is, he's not intellectual, she's been

quoted as saying. The honorary law doctorate is being conferred by the National University of Ireland of which Galway is a constituent college. The request to the senate of the National University to confer the award came personally from Dr Garret Fitzgerald on behalf of the government. Dr Fitzgerald is a member of the senate and attended the meeting at which the request was formally made.

However, opposition has been growing steadily to the idea. At least two recipients of honorary degrees are planning to destroy their certificates at an alternative ceremony in Galway tomorrow. There will be further protests organized by different groups during the visit to Ireland which ends

on Monday. Academics, students and teachers have been to the forefront in organizing many of these.

Much of the controversy over the visit is generated by President Reagan's policies on central America. The effect of these policies has been made known to the Irish people through missionaries who have worked on Central America. The Bishop of Galway, Dr Eamonn Casey is a critic of these policies and will officially be unavailable to attend tomorrow.

The row over the honorary degree has caused embarrassment to the senate of the National University at its next scheduled meeting in July. Initial moves will be made to ask the government to devise its own system of awards.

## Judge halts potato blight experiments

from E. Patrick McQuaid

CAMBRIDGE A federal court has put off controversial genetic experiments at the University of California at Berkeley and blocked the National Institutes of Health from approving any similar work until a lawsuit attempting to halt them altogether can be cleared up.

Last spring, the National Institutes - the government's umbrella agency for health-related research - approved an experiment in which a 200-foot row of potato vine would be sprayed with a common bacterium, the genes of which had been tampered with in a laboratory in order to deter frost. A coalition of environmental organizations filed suit against the NIH, charging that the agency had authorized the test without requiring an environmental impact study.

Under the supervision of Mr Steven Lindow, an associate professor of plant pathology at Berkeley, the experiment - which would mark the first occasion in which genetically engineered organisms would be deliberately released into the atmosphere - was scheduled for May 25. The scientists offered to postpone their work but are now expected to appeal against the preliminary injunction ordered by Judge John Sirica of the US District Court for the District of Columbia.

The ruling prohibiting the NIH from granting approval to any other experiments in which altered genes are released into the environment has a more immediate and costly commercial impact. The rapidly expanding biotechnology industry in America has ready a series of open-air experiments, the results of which could prove quite lucrative.

Frost damage in the States costs farmers about \$3 billion annually. The Berkeley tests, which were to be expected to produce a strain capable of guarding against frost.

## Historian questions sources

Academic research institutions dealing with Soviet bloc countries should rethink their definition of primary and secondary sources according to Dr Wolfgang Leonhard, a Yale historian. Official party and government publications should be considered as secondary sources only, and greater importance given to "underground" papers where these exist, and to anecdotal evidence, he said. He called upon scholars to re-think their attitude in this matter.

Dr Leonhard, who during the 1940s had studied at a Party college in Moscow and who came to the West at the end of the 1960s was addressing a conference on Contemporary Poland in a Historical Perspective. He cited, from his own experience, a number of

distortions or suppressions of major events in the history Soviet-Polish relations.

These included the dissolution of the Polish communist party in 1938, which was kept a close secret by the Communist Party of Poland, the partition of Poland between the USSR and Nazi Germany, with a demarcation line along the Visula, and the cover-up operation over the massacre of Polish officers in Katyn Wood in 1940.

● The London-based Anglo-Belorusians Society plans to celebrate its thirtieth anniversary, which occurs later this month, by inaugurating a project to record verbatim the reminiscences of members of the Belorussian community in Great Britain, prior to their settlement in Britain.

## Courses

## Garnett College Education and Training for Teachers and Administrators in Further Education

Applications are invited for the following courses: MASTER OF ARTS - Council for National Academic Awards. A Master's Degree in Further Education extending over two years' part-time study and involving the inter-disciplinary study of the further education system and its curriculum. Candidates should be employed in the teaching or administration of post-compulsory education and should normally have a BEd(Hons) or other equivalent qualification.

M,PHIL AND PHD - Council for National Academic Awards. The College invites enquiries and applications relating to Research Degrees in the field of Further Education. Successful candidates normally possess a good degree, or equivalent, and wish to undertake research in a field related to Further or Adult Education.

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION - Council for National Academic Awards. Three years' part-time study. Prepares candidates for further study and research in further education. Candidates should be serving teachers with an initial teaching qualification and a minimum of two years' teaching experience.

DIPLOMA IN FURTHER EDUCATION - Council for National Academic Awards. (Leading to the award of the Diploma in Professional Studies). Two years' part-time study (or one year full-time) and involving the study of the theory of further education to first degree level. Candidates should be employed in the teaching or administration of post-compulsory education and should hold a Certificate in Education.

DIPLOMA IN TEACHING STRATEGIES - Council for National Academic Awards. (Leading to the award of the Diploma in Professional Studies). A two-year part-time course. Course members will explore recent advances in their subject specialism, course design and development, and trends in the organisation and management of further education. Candidates should be employed in teaching in further education and should have at least three years' teaching experience.

DIPLOMA IN EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT - University of London. Two years' part-time study. Aims to provide a sound academic grounding in educational management and an opportunity to improve management skills. Candidates should have substantial teaching and/or administrative experience in further education or associated fields.

DIPLOMA IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY - University of London. (For Further Education). Two years' part-time study. Develops professional competences in the management and organisation of learning resources. Candidates should have initial professional qualifications and be experienced teachers, librarians or administrators in further education or associated fields.

The College welcomes applications from all suitably qualified persons including those from minority or disadvantaged groups.

Candidates should apply as soon as possible, specifying the course(s) in which they are interested, to the Principal (Ref. THES), Garnett College, Downshire House, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 4HR. (Telephone: 01-789 8533).

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# Exercise in cooperation

The Coventry Consortium began life as a germ of an idea tossed out during an informal conference discussion over a glass of wine. Ten months later it has emerged to be hailed as the flagship of PICKUP, the programme of professional, industrial and commercial updating initiated by the Department of Education and Science.

And, since it has already generated £2.5m in course work for the five educational institutions involved, the consortium is being held up as an exemplary model to other prospective providers, hoping to grab a share of a new £1.3m allocation for similar schemes.

Building on the success of PICKUP in Coventry and elsewhere, the Government is now offering under the auspices of the DES and the Manpower Services Commission - financial support for projects aimed at bringing together employers and educators to jointly assess training needs, then to devise ways of meeting them.

Two types of funding are on offer: amounts of up to £15,000 for small-scale schemes, designed principally to expand on existing collaborative efforts; and up to £50,000 to forge new links in specific geographical areas and perhaps among a group of firms or within a particular industry.

Awards are to be made for up to one year, and the money obtained will be for use in establishing or extending a joint approach to training - not to finance the courses themselves.

Coventry has managed to squeeze £82,000, spread over two and a half years, out of the DES purse - a far cry from the original £200,000 bid lodged.

But, as Coventry's consortium coordinator Mr David Warner is quick to confess: "At the time we had no real idea of what the likely costs of such a venture would be."

More aid has been committed to the consortium by the Coventry local education authority, in the guise of staffing and access to institutional facilities; while Warwick University has made its contribution through David Warner's secondment and office accommodation on the campus.

Success has hinged on a high degree of cooperation between all the education participants, since the consortium's inception at a West Midlands conference in December 1982.

Representatives from Warwick University, Coventry Polytechnic and the city's three further education colleges, plus delegates from the local authority were interested in the PICKUP presentation made at the conference, but felt a joint approach might be most advantageous.

David Warner said: "The DES did not seem to have investigated this possibility. After talking to their representatives we felt the idea might have been abandoned. As a group we immediately abandoned the remaining afternoon sessions of the conference and set about our own discussions. By the end of the afternoon we had come to an agreement on a collaborative effort."

Cooperative effort was not, however, just to be a key element in the acquisition of resources. The consortium partners were deeply conscious from the beginning that inter-institutional strife, whether between rival institutions or at departmental level in one establishment, could jeopardize the entire venture.

"A basic trust had to exist from the start, then we had to build on it and prove to each other that collaboration between institutions could work," declares the co-ordinator.

To underwrite this trust, the consortium vowed not to interfere with the existing work of any institution in the industrial field. Only entirely new training ventures were to come under the consortium's aegis.

Ten days after the conference, Coventry's bid for collaborative PICKUP was delivered to the DES. Grant aid was achieved by July last year, when the consortium began to function.

Such was its success in the early months that by October - the official launch date - Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was on the platform to welcome the consortium's formation.

Apart from collaboration between the educational partners, the other essential ingredient in Coventry's project has been the provision of a central command unit.

The unit is staffed by the coordinator and one person on full-time secondment from further education,

## Maggie Richards reports on a PICKUP scheme which has generated £2.5m in course work

reinforced by secretarial support. Another full-time post is likely to be created in the near future.

Staff at the unit view themselves as the consortium's sales team - their aim is to sell the services of the 1500 academic staff on their books and the combined resources of the five participating institutions to industrial and commercial enterprises, large and small, throughout the Coventry area.

This has meant the unit has adopted with a vengeance the PICKUP motto, reiterated endlessly at conferences and workshops: education at the right time, in the right place, and at the right price.

Coventry might well add: by the right sales team; for the coordinator's definition of job qualities is a demanding one: "energetic, prepared to work all unsocial hours, keen to make their mark, able to sell and think on their feet, must have confidence in giving presentations, and have credibility with industry and educational institutions alike."

In formal terms, the aim of the unit is to promote the value of training and updating programmes and, more specifically, to remove the perspective of educational institutions as merely providers of post-school learning.



In practice, it conducts a vast and sophisticated marketing exercise, publicising and promoting its educational wares in the best sales traditions of the client companies it seeks to attract.

Much of the consortium's budget is channelled in this direction, to finance sales literature, exhibition displays, advertising, hospitality costs and travelling expenses. Cash has also to be found to fund seminars and workshops highlighting the consortium's work.

Regular visits are made to industrial and commercial premises: among the larger companies the main concern is to maintain strong links with training officers; while with smaller firms the emphasis is inclined towards increasing awareness of the benefits of training.

In both instances, consortium staff point to the cost-effectiveness of their courses: being locally based, specially devised to suit the client, in some circumstances in-house presentations. This approach, they argue, eliminates many of the "extras" attached to traditional training: residential accommodation, lengthy courses, travelling time and expenses, excessive loss of manpower, and the consequent loss of production.

Another of the unit's most vital roles is to act as a central clearing-house for access and information on further and higher education throughout Coventry.

To provide a comprehensive service requires a database of all staff, their academic expertise and industrial ex-

perience. Information on all types of courses offered by each institution, separated into modular elements where possible, is also stored.

Details are also provided of all available academic facilities: laboratories, lecture theatres, residential accommodation, classrooms; and, especially, all major or new equipment.

The unit at Coventry has attempted to map out its potential market, pinpointing every industrial and commercial concern in the city, and sketching in the contours of products, training structures, numbers of employees and most crucially - the name of a personal contact at each location.

Much criticism was focused in the early days of PICKUP on the self-financing aspect of the programme. Employers, it was argued, would be reluctant to meet the full costs of training, especially with the attendant risk that retrained staff would seek more lucrative jobs elsewhere.

Coventry was not unaware of the danger. But in common with other PICKUP programmes was forced to adhere to the full-cost policy. In doing so, however, the consortium adopted an over-riding principle.

Says the co-ordinator: "Our primary purpose is not to provide education with a new source of income. It is to realise the enormous resources of education for the benefit of industry and commerce."

"Our emphasis is not on obtaining a financial profit from the courses we mount, but on our belief in selling to industry on our mutual benefit."

"We recognize that when industrial growth is stimulated, this pays the taxes to provide a strong education system. A large public education sector is highly dependent upon a strong economy."

A beneficial by-product for Coventry, however, has been the increase in the number of students placed on conventional courses as a result of the consortium's efforts in raising the general level of awareness about educational opportunities.

The cost element, though, can be a crucial factor for the small business, as the consortium has discovered. Having overcome the loss of manpower problem by providing concentrated courses, perhaps at the factory complex, the scheme may well founder because of the employer's inability to pay.

Coventry has gone some way to alleviating the problem by a thorough investigation of training grants available to small and medium-sized industrial concerns. Often it has found companies are unaware of the funding arrangements on offer.

Efforts in the small business sector have also yielded an increasing return, as companies begin to recognize the value of training. The consortium's advice was sought by one small company employing a handful of security staff and late duty telephonists.

The security staff represented the company's first point of contact with clients, both personally and by telephone. Yet, when the consortium was consulted and brought in management advisors from participating colleges, they unearthed many flaws: ranging from chaotic parking arrangements, which confused and incensed prospective customers, to a lack of an adequate telephone monitoring system, so that crucial business calls were lost.

The colleges' team of consultants faced a further difficulty in organising



Employees of a Coventry firm embark on a PICKUP programming course on computer controlled machine tools

a suitable course. Many of the security staff were ex-servicemen, with extremely fixed ideas of their roles, and lacking any recent experience of educational processes.

To tackle this latter problem, and to cope with the company's reluctance to allow day-release for manpower reasons, the team presented a one-day course.

The video tapes replayed back to them. They were then invited to discuss their roles and suggest improvements, many of which were then implemented by the company.

The total cost of the package to the company was £275. Since then the firm has approached the consortium to organize other courses for the plant.

The consortium has also been able to come to the aid of companies in the export market. In one instance a group of foreign workers were to be trained as servicing engineers, but lacked basic mechanical skills. A further education college within the consortium was able to provide an intensive three week course, which the company then supplemented with its own more specific in-house training programme.

In the higher education field, the consortium has been able to combine the tutoring resources of the polytechnic and university. On one occasion an industrial relations course for a large company was compiled by a member of Warwick University's staff, and implemented by a team from the polytechnic.

Dialogue between educators and industry is not confined to the classroom, office, or shop floor. It exists at management level in the structure of the consortium itself.

A policy committee of the consortium, which meets to review progress and discuss further developments, is composed of senior members of the local education authority, representatives of industry and commerce; and officials from the DES. The chairman of the group is the vice-chancellor of Warwick University, Mr Jack Butterworth.

To ensure continued smooth-running of the consortium between the five participating institutions, the consortium has a second committee, comprising the principal or vice-principal of each institution, and headed by the director of Coventry Polytechnic.

Contact between the institutions and industry in Coventry, both through the committee structure and via the training schemes, has led the consortium to extend its services into the realms of consultancy work.

In addition, the consortium has realised its educational facilities can be hired out for industrial purposes. A small firm appealed for help to obtain complicated laser measurements, and an institution within the consortium

## All a question of public attitudes

Paul Flather analyses a new national survey of changes in British views

Change in society has never been easy to measure. But from this week social researchers can draw on a new national survey of British social attitudes just deposited in the data archive at Essex University, available to all bona fide academics for no more than a nominal fee.

It is the first of a planned series of annual surveys which over time will constitute an important source for studying how contemporary British views and beliefs are changing during the 1980s.

The raw material is summarized in a report published this week and first added by *The Sunday Times* which bought the pre-publication rights. It covers the full spectrum of British life from political mores - including views on the constitution, coalition government and protest action - through attitudes to economic solutions to the British disease and industrial relations, social policy and public expenditure, educational issues and priorities, to social and moral values, including views on racial prejudice and discrimination.

The work has been carried out by Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR) under Professor Roger Jowell, a co-director and visiting professor at City University, and Mr Colin Airey, a deputy director. They have been backed by a team of academic and survey researchers including Ken Young, senior fellow at the Policy Studies Institute; Nick Bosanquet, economics lecturer at City University; Anthony Harrison, joint editor of *Public Money*, and Harvey Goldstein, professor of statistics at the London University Institute of Education, who has studied the education data.

Already some £250,000 has been pledged to ensure the survey comes out for at least the next three years following this year's publication. Pilot funding for the 1984 report was given by the Nuffield Foundation (£38,000) and the Economic and Social Research Council (£20,000) which backs the Essex archive. The Monument Trust, one of the Sainsbury foundations, is giving £60,000 for each of the next three surveys, with Marks and Spencer plc and Shell UK also contributing.

There is of course no shortage of polls and surveys in Britain. There are also established annual surveys of the country's changing social conditions and behaviour, including the highly respected *Social Trends* series, and the General Household Survey. But in the 150 years or so since censuses have

become an accepted part of social study, no full surveys of British attitudes have been carried out, at least not with the same questions repeated over time and not with the material publicly available.

A highly successful similar project has been running for more than a decade in Chicago, carried out by the National Opinion Research Centre. West Germany and Australia also run regular attitudes surveys. More than 650 separate reports and studies in the last 10 years have been based on the NORC findings and Jowell believes that in time the same kind of extensive study of British views will be possible once the attitudes survey has become established.

He is even planning to stimulate international comparisons by arranging coordinated questionnaires with the survey teams in the United States, West Germany and Australia. Nuffield has given SCPR a £5,000 grant to arrange talks to pursue this.

Jowell and Airey, who both come from marketing backgrounds, do not want to claim special status for their survey. But there are four reasons why *British Social Attitudes* is important.

First, the funding arrangements mean there is no single client for the survey, with no single direction or "hoped for result", giving the work a strongly impartial, independent and academic air.

Second, it is an open, public and accessible database, a resource for further study by social scientists and researchers. Indeed with more than 200 microfiche tables it is very much designed for further specialist investigation, the report being no more than a "guided tour" around the material.

In this it differs markedly from similar privately funded material, from the private polls done by Harris, Gallup, MORI and others for national newspapers and political parties to the Henley Centre for Forecasting, which charges for its data.

Third, it will gain in strength and usefulness over time as real comparisons, based on the same questions asked in similar circumstances, emerge. As Sir Claus Moser, warden-elect of Wadham College, Oxford who was involved in setting up *Social Trends*, says in the preface: "It is from the monitoring and understanding of trends in attitudes that one can learn most about what is happening in society."

Finally, the survey is designed to check the consistency of its own findings and reveal its own flaws, with no attempt to hide details. There is a full technical appendix.

The neglect of attitudes surveys remains something of a mystery to Jowell and Airey. As Jowell says in his introduction, this is all the more surprising given how central attitudes are for government policy. It means that too often views are simply imputed, mistakenly, or just ignored.

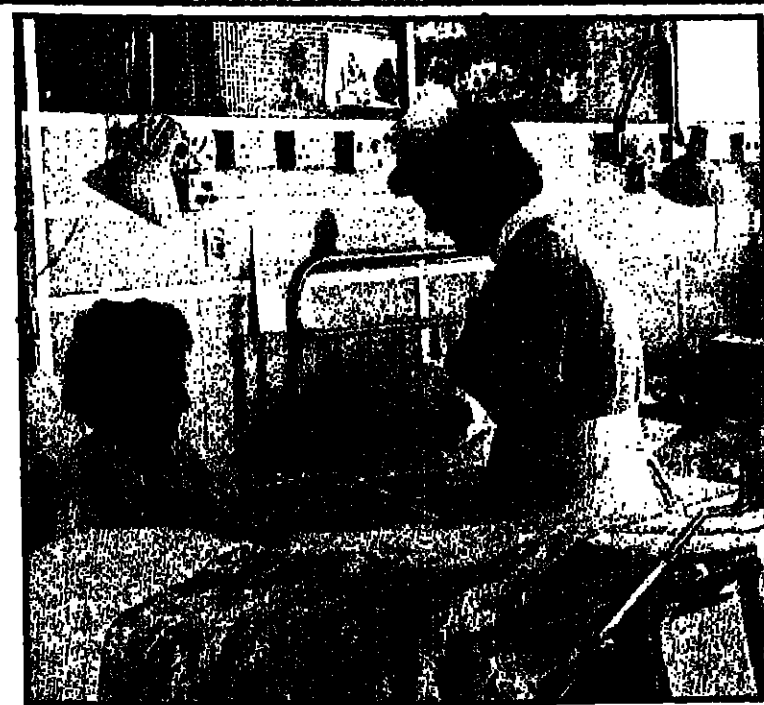
For example the prevailing view taken for granted by the Treasury that "everyone wants lower taxes" is a view when contrasted with other policy options that is not borne out in the survey.

The polls are too topic-specific and pre-emptory for academics according to Jowell. Only the British Election Studies, so nearly dumped by the ESRC last year, fits the bill as a solid, comparative study over time of British political views.

The dangers of imputing views have been shown up well in America where the Chicago work allowed studies to show how attitudes on race prejudice and sex roles have altered significantly in 15 years. Also, while voting patterns indeed show a significant swing to the right, attitudes surveys also show a growth in social liberalism. The same could well be true here.

The 1984 survey certainly shows up a strong commitment to social spending, including education, over and above the desire to reduce taxes. Indeed 85 per cent of the respondents were opposed to the view that Britain's economic problems could be solved by reducing health and education spending. Only 13 per cent were in favour.

Overall, education was seen as a very high priority for government spending, coming second to health



Only a tiny minority think health spending should be reduced

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with 24 per cent. This compares well with US findings where education was the top priority with 21 per cent of the vote, while it was third in Canada with 13 per cent.

Here are some items of government spending. Which of them, if any, would be your highest priority for extra spending, and which next?

|                          | First priority | Second priority |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Health                   | 37             | 68              |
| Education                | 24             | 69              |
| Help for industry        | 18             | 29              |
| Housing                  | 7              | 20              |
| Social security benefits | 6              | 12              |
| Defence                  | 4              | 8               |
| Police and prisons       | 3              | 8               |
| Roads                    | 2              | 5               |
| Public transport         | 1              | 3               |
| Overseas aid             | 1              | 1               |

Note: Only six respondents chose other items.

Education was a top priority for those aged 25-34, but only 21 per cent of those under the age of 25, and for 16 per cent of those over the age of 55. No discernible social class or party differences emerged. The findings were consistent with another question showing that just 9 per cent were in favour of cutting social spending and reducing taxes.

When asked about their priorities for extra education spending, perhaps not surprisingly just 9 per cent wanted to spend more on higher education. All the same, when asked about opportunities to go on to higher education just 5 per cent wanted them reduced.

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## Cultivating the universal woman

In the autumn of 1918, a university delegation from Britain went on a goodwill mission to meet their United States counterparts. Three of the women, Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard College, Professor Caroline Spurgeon of London University, and Rose Sidgwick of Birmingham University, ended up talking together in a New York hotel room about the war.

"We should have an international federation of university women, so that we at least shall have done all we can to prevent another such catastrophe," said Professor Spurgeon.

"Then I guess I must rally the Association of Collegiate Alumnae," said Dean Gildersleeve.

"And we must go back and talk with the British Federation of University Women," added Rose Sidgwick.

So runs Virginia Gildersleeve's account of the birth of the International Federation of University Women, which was founded in 1919. Even then, it had a healthy membership. Women had won access to higher education in a number of countries around the turn of the century and had formed associations and federations of graduates.

At the international federation's first conference in 1920, there were official delegates from America, Canada, Britain, Czechoslovakia, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain, with observers from Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, South Africa and others, who were in the process of setting up national organizations.

The federation now has a membership of its first Scottish president, Dr Helen Dunsmore, senior lecturer in chemistry at Glasgow University. "The idea is that if we can foster friendship among people of different cultures, we can help dispel superstitions, and in the long run this must promote peace," she says.

The federation's aims include furthering the development of education and encouraging women to apply their knowledge and skills "to the problems which arise at all levels of public life, whether local, national, regional or worldwide".

The federation awards a number of grants and fellowships for postgraduate studies, but is also concerned with more basic education. It has recently joined with four other international women's organizations in "Project 5-0", a scheme to provide vocational training and non-formal education in developing countries.

Its first project has been established just outside Calcutta, where women are taught skills which will provide them with a source of income and enable them to improve their standard of living.

At a meeting of African countries in 1964, the federation discovered that in many of these countries, while primary and university education was state supported, secondary education had to be paid for. Since then, hundreds of

women becomes qualified, she has less trouble going on from there, than in developed countries where there is completely organized machinery which has been concerned only with men," says Dr Dunsmore.

She admits that she does not favour positive discrimination, but is a firm believer in equality of opportunity and choice. "At the moment, women are made to feel they ought to be running full-time careers and homes and children and I don't approve of that. There should be a genuine choice for each person to do what makes them happiest."

Dr Dunsmore agrees that she was fortunate in attending a local coeducational Scottish school where no eyebrows were raised when she wanted to study science. "And it didn't cause any problems at home because my mother graduated from Glasgow University in maths and physics in 1914."

After taking both a BSc and PhD at Glasgow Dr Dunsmore was appointed research fellow at the Canadian National Research Council in Ottawa and discovered that in North America as well as in Britain, "A very well-meaning lady said she'd have me married off in six months if I gave up chemistry."

On another occasion, an industrialist coming to the research council for a consultation refused even to tell Dr



Dr Dunsmore: believer in equality

take up an invitation from the Royal Technical University in Stockholm to come and do research in Sweden, and after three years there, returned to Glasgow University as a lecturer.

While women made up around a third of science classes, female lecturers were still a rarity. When she appeared to give her first lecture (billed as Dr H. S. Dunsmore), she was greeted with "sneals, catcalls and howls - not hostile, just a friendly student welcome, and expression of surprise. Now students' attitudes have

First priority for extra spending

|                                                     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| Nursery or pre-school children                      | 10 |
| Primary school children                             | 16 |
| Secondary school children                           | 29 |
| Less able children with special needs               | 32 |
| Students at colleges, universities and polytechnics | 9  |

Opportunities to go on to higher education

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Should be increased | 44 |
| About right now     | 49 |
| Should be reduced   | 5  |
| Don't know          | 2  |

Within the 44 per cent wanting higher education expanded, the young, those who stayed in full-time education beyond 16 and Labour identifiers are significant groupings, as against the elderly, Alliance and Conservative voters and those who left school before 16. Professor Goldstein remarks that further study of this "unusual cluster" is needed.

Following the high profile student loans debate in 1982/83, a question on loans was included in the survey. This revealed 57 per cent in support of the present grants system, with most support from Labour, those under 35 and those who had full time education after 16. Loans got 38 per cent support.

Half the population of Britain would also want to bar homosexuals from teaching in colleges and universities, with 42 per cent barring them from any public responsible post.

More than half the people also believe "revolutionaries" (or those wanting to overthrow the British system of government) and "racists" (or those who say all blacks and Asians should be forced to leave Britain) should not teach in colleges or schools.

There was also a question about the perceived level of benefit from education spending with 34 per cent saying high income families benefited most. The findings show a strong class and income effect with low earners saying high earners benefited most and vice versa.

This year's findings are no more than a snapshot of current attitudes. Next year's findings will be much more exciting. Researchers will then gradually be able to move away from short-hand, poll-based data for their studies. Fieldwork is already almost complete, and in addition ESRC funds have been given to allow return visits to about a third of the 1983/84 respondents.

This year 1,761 usable interviews were obtained from 2,532 attempts (70 per cent response rate) from sampling points in 103 constituencies. As Jowell says, it is to those 1,761 consenting adults that the survey owes its successful start. What will their counterparts be thinking now?

*British Social Attitudes, the 1984 report*, edited by Roger Jowell and Colin Airey, published by Gower, £9.99 paperback, £18.50 hardback with microfiche tables.

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## Pauline Stafford

### The home truths that shatter the English idyll

I spent part of my Easter holiday in the Midlands, on the rich agricultural borders of Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. It was a perfect English spring: the blackthorn blossomed overnight, there were wood anemones and musciculi in the hedgerows, luscious and reed-bunting along the river banks.

We stayed not far from Meriden, with its cyclists' memorial and its claim to be the centre of England, and it certainly felt like that idyllic heart of England we all mythologize: sunny days, thatched cottages and prosperous farms, people messing about along canals in converted barges, even eccentric enthusiasts committed to lost causes running a restored steam railway. It was St George's day and the birthday of the Bard and the "Englishness" was palpable. What a pity about the road blocks.

We saw them all the way down the M1. Travelling south from Yorkshire with a loaded boot and three children we were an unlikely carload of flying pickets, and we encountered none of the personal aggression which so many who have travelled that route this spring have had.

But roadblocks which were a rather disturbing sight on the exit roads on the motorway were especially shocking at the entrance to a lane leading from the A5 in rural Warwickshire. It was a lane we had frequently walked to a perfect fourteenth-century church on the site of a lost abbey. But it also led to the local pit and so, along with many other lanes in the Midlands, it was stopped by a police road block to counter the movement of pickets.

There was even a rather English, gentlemanly amateurishness about that. Two policemen with rolled-up sleeves, benign and a bit sunburnt, no riot equipment, no gun holsters leant against their car. At one pit we passed by the side of the motorway the police were playing football in the deserted car park.

But roadblocks are not part of the Noddy world we fondly idealize and it has not been PC Plo who has massed against the surging lines of Yorkshire pickets outside the Midlands pits. They are a reminder that authority is Janus-faced, turning a very different expression depending on the end of the social spectrum or the set of beliefs it is inspecting. The bluff images of frowning pits by the village green belie a society in which freedoms are not as sacrosanct and cherished as we care to believe.

The miners have drawn the usual range of arguments and abuse: they are violent bull boys, selfishly out to protect their own jobs, in happier times calmly oblivious to the conditions and pay of groups less fortunate than themselves.

In spite of their gestures of aid to the nurses and health workers there is a kernel of truth here. The miners' union has done little to help the truly low paid or to equalize income. But surely this is the acceptable face of trade unionism in a free, competitive market economy. Trade unionism is not about socialism and redistribution, but about protecting jobs and conditions and maximizing incomes in a bargaining process.

The situation is not of course so simple. Success often demands solidarity and solidarity cannot be built solely on self-interest and its calculation. I was rather disturbed to see a certain South Yorkshire council, recently

threaten to break the teachers' lunch-time boycott in a mining area because the free lunches were an essential part of the daily nourishment of the children of striking miners.

Brotherhood is and must be part of the ideals of trade unionism, and it is one which a society and government which itself stresses community can legitimately call upon. But when economic individualism and aggressive competitiveness are the avowed social ethics it is unjust to castigate miners or other groups for practising them.

The bullyboy image is a separate issue. Distortion and selective reporting will not explain away all that we have seen in this dispute.

The voice of protest is necessarily raucous, with little suave urbanity. Protest rarely presents arguments, though they may be there; it is an outburst of anger and like most uncontrolled and naked emotions, especially when expressed on the streets, is unpalatable and fearsome. Violence cannot be condoned, however much it may have been provoked. But there are perfectly adequate civil and criminal laws to protect property and person from it.

The deep infringements of freedom of movement and action involved here are unnecessary. Road blocks and their like are simply preventing picketing, and freedom to picket in pursuit of certain industrial aims is a freedom of which we should be proud.

A group of Barnsley miners wrote a furious letter to *The Guardian* at the beginning of the dispute. They were keen gardeners and anxious to visit a Nottinghamshire flower show on Saturday morning. The journey necessitated an early start. What chance, they wondered, would a car-load of miners with Barnsley addresses at 7am en route from south Yorkshire to Nottinghamshire have of convincing a police road block that it was the blooms they were going to view?

But there goes the English myth again. We all love stories of horny-handed sons of toil winning prize chrysantheums on their allotments; we all feel outraged when they cannot reach their flower show on time. These are not the sort of miners in Doc Martins making V-signs at the camera we are setting up road blocks to control.

Yet freedoms matter most precisely when our hearts warm least. What idea of freedom or of totalitarianism do people have when they justify the current actions against miners or the evictions of Greenham women on the grounds that they are selfish hoodlums or lesbian punks? Have we been so gullible by tele-pap that we believe totalitarianism means some equivalent of garrotting babies or preventing old ladies from collecting their pensions?

If miners and Greenham women were selfish hoodlums or lesbian punks it would be all the more reason for strenuously protecting their freedom to protest and picket. It is always unpopular, marginal or vulnerable groups who are most in danger of loss of freedoms, as the recent revelations of police action among the gay community show.

I am not suggesting that we are little better than a totalitarian regime, though the extent to which we seem to need to stress the differences should sound a warning note. It is precisely because we pride ourselves on our Englishness, and our difference that road blocks in rural Warwickshire or industrial South Yorkshire are intolerable.

## The state that came in from the cold

When Mr P. W. Botha meets Mrs Thatcher it will be the first time a South African prime minister has visited Britain since Dr Hendrik Verwoerd attended the 1961 Commonwealth conference. Verwoerd came to seek his country's readmission to the Commonwealth following the declaration of a republic. In that he failed.

Under a hail of criticism from other Commonwealth leaders he withdrew the application, but on his return home he claimed a triumph - that he had achieved the Afrikaner nationalists' dream of shaking off the last vestiges of British imperialism. Further he said that the advantages that South Africa had gained from the bilateral relationship with Britain would be unaffected.

In terms of economic links there was substance in this latter claim. Despite all the opposition of the anti-apartheid groups, despite the predictions of impending revolution and the stream of hostile United Nations resolutions, a complex web of economic relations flourishes between Britain and South Africa - of trade and banking, of insurance and investment, of the transfer of technology and skilled workforces. The size and strength of the web is recognized on all sides.

As Ruth First, a committed opponent of apartheid, wrote in 1973: "There can scarcely be a single pension fund, insurance company, building society or unit trust in Britain that does not have some of its capital invested in South Africa. Students, trade unionists or clergymen who complain that their university, union or church funds are making unwholesome profit out of a racist society have only come across a small crack in the ground beneath their feet."

Backed by powerful groups like the British South Africa Trade Association and the South Africa Foundation the economic ties have survived all challenges and no British government, Labour or Conservative, has dared to touch them. Even when Harold Wilson committed himself to bring down Smith's Rhodesia by economic sanctions he excluded South Africa, although it was soon evident that the republic provided the greatest breach in the sanctions wall.

Mrs Thatcher will appreciate this when she meets Mr Botha. She will also appreciate that not only is there persistent international opposition to the republic which has made it a virtual diplomatic pariah and to which Britain is particularly vulnerable because of its wide and entrenched ties - but that South Africa is a fiercely fought issue of British domestic politics. The business interests may stand on one side urging continued contacts, but there are equally powerful groups (such as the Anti Apartheid Movement) which are committed to breaking all links.

The conflict of views and values also permeates the political parties creating tensions within as well as between them. These conflicts allied to the intensity of the moral debate and the high degree of media attention, singles out the relationship with South Africa from other foreign policy issues. It passes through the prism of domestic British politics to emerge in forms that the South African may sometimes find difficult to recognize, but which Margaret Thatcher cannot ignore, as the clamour against Botha's visit has shown.

Because of the domestic and international pressures successive British governments have sought to distance themselves diplomatically from South Africa. At the time of Verwoerd's visit in 1961 Britain was the main external imperial responsibilities and defence agreements with South Africa. That situation would have changed in any case as Britain withdrew from her imperial and global roles, but it was also Britain's interests to keep South Africa at arm's length, to avoid guilt by association.

However, the path has been difficult and slow. The imperial retreat became enmeshed in Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence, which in one sense brought the two governments together as they both wanted a stable



Botha: in strong position

ment, but in others added to the strain because of their different attitudes to sanctions and the terms of a settlement. The breaking of the defence links was no easier.

In 1964 Harold Wilson's new Labour government imposed an arms ban, and although there was later a bitter cabinet dispute about refraining it, the ban held. Even when Edward Heath's government tried to reverse the situation in the early 1970s, claiming that Britain was obliged to sell arms under the Simonstown naval agreements, the international and domestic opposition was so strong that little progress was made.

Finally, when another Labour administration came to power, Britain withdrew from the Simonstown agreements, and, following the Soweto riots and the death of Steve Biko, gave its support to a mandatory arms ban. That still applies.

The British government's formal role in southern Africa is now very limited. There is relatively low key involvement in such matters as the EEC code of conduct for firms operating in the republic, membership in western contact groups for Namibia and support for the Glencagles agreement against sporting links.

More generally, however, not only has Britain abandoned her old formal ties, but the government has consciously sought to keep its head below the parapet, to avoid involvement, to claim that there are many aspects of the relationship which are outside government responsibility, to keep in step with other Western states because there is safety in the pack.

This is not an heroic stance and it has drawn fire from those with strong commitments on both sides, but it has been understandable. There were too many clashing values, too many people with a stake in South Africa, too much potential political punishment at home and abroad for the government to have pursued bold initiatives.

Now, however, Mrs Thatcher has invited Mr Botha to visit her. She has explained that this in no way implies that she supports the South African government's policies, that she is always being urged by her critics to make contact with those with whom she disagrees (such as the USSR), that Mr Botha is visiting on European states. And therefore that it is natural that he should also call on Britain, that South Africa has recently signed agreements with her black neighbours, and that she is much more likely to exercise influence by contact than ostracism. There is no reason to doubt that this is her reasoning, but it is a risky venture.

There has been immediate strong criticism from those who say that she is giving respectability to apartheid and there are sure to be hostile demonstrations in the streets, which no government enjoys. If Mrs Thatcher is to gain anything from this meeting she will have the difficult task of demonstrating that the talks are of substance and that through contact she can exert influence, (that for example she can help to resolve the Namibian situation).

She persists in this "constructive engagement" approach she will be reversing the trend of recent British policy towards South Africa and exposing herself to more political conflict, but then Mrs Thatcher has never been one to avoid a fight.

Mr Botha's approach to the meeting can be much more relaxed. Because he is a tough, no frills politician he will probably want to discuss matters of substance - he may for instance hope to persuade Britain to supply maritime

This story begins in Texas during August, 1974. As a doctoral student I had arrived in Austin to examine the Evelyn Waugh archive at the Humanities Research Center. The University of Texas was rich: for some years it had been using oil revenues to outbid alchemists in European salerooms.

One of its notable successes in this field had been the purchase of Waugh's entire library. His fine collection of books would alone have merited the figure paid. As it was, the university also secured the bound manuscripts of his books and diaries, sheafs of assorted papers (including letters, drawings and woodcuts) and even the library furniture.

I was far from being the first to have followed this trail. Cyril Connolly had arrived in Austin three years earlier and demanded to see any of his own works in Waugh's library. The staff had politely tried to deflect his inquiry. He was insistent. They brought out Waugh's copy of *The Unquiet Grave* which he had read in one of those (not infrequent) moments of boredom as a soldier in Yugoslavia. The margins bulge with literary and philosophical abuse, tearing Connolly's self-contradictory proposition from conclusion.

It was typical of Waugh, five years after his death, still to torment poor Connolly as he had throughout their working lives.

When I arrived I found the "Waugh industry" in full swing. Michael Davie was there working on the diaries; Donald Gallagher (editor of the recently published *Essays, Articles and Reviews*) was sifting the massive correspondence of Waugh and his agent, A. D. Peters; Professor Robert Murray Davis, the leading American scholar, was compiling the research centre's *Catalogue* (1981) of the archive.

The centre is an extraordinary library - a windowless concrete fortress garriaged by armed guards. Its corridors are scanned by television cameras. One ascends by lift to a reading room which seems disproportionately small in relation to the overall size of the building.

Yellow paper and pencils are issued; a humble card catalogue stands to the right. A cursory glance at the latter, however, is enough to stagger the imagination of any literature scholar. Hardly a significant name from the history of European or American literature is absent. The typed cards refer almost casually to the rarest of books and to a bewildering galaxy of manuscripts. On the table next to mine a man was poring over Conrad's handwriting.

The library proved a model of efficiency. It was the manuscripts which interested me particularly. Waugh had, from the earliest and impoverished days, sent them to be bound by Maltby of Oxford. A bibliophile himself, he had taken pains to make his library a bibliographer's delight.

Within a couple of minutes the heavy leather-bound volumes of handwritten sheets would, unbelievably, be deposited on my desk. They were all there from *Rossetti* to *A Little Learning* - all that is, except *Vile Bodies*. Of that there was only a typescript (approximately the first half of the book) corrected in Waugh's hand.

I had only six weeks. There was no time to wonder at the absence of the manuscript. The wonder was that the collection was so complete. There was opportunity only to make detailed notes and to order microfilm of those manuscripts (all up to 1939) which I wished to study in detail.

At first sight these documents were rather disappointing. I had hoped for massive revisions, fascinating deletions. I was largely disappointed.

It seemed that Waugh's apparently tongue-in-cheek claim to Julian Jebb in 1962 (in *Park Review* interviews) - that the early novels were "six weeks' work" - might, after all, be true. The superficial "volubility" of the manuscripts suggested that he had perhaps dashed these books off. I was wrong.

Back in England I began to work on the microfilm, collating the manuscript with the first editions. Almost immediately significant variants began to emerge and I realized that my initial assumption had failed to take into account a crucial aspect of twentieth century literary composition: the use of the typewriter. For those authors who typed their own manuscripts (the problems were less intractable).

But Waugh did not type. He posted his manuscripts in sections to the typist and, it became clear, used this first typed version as his rough draft. As I typed these corrected typescripts I was now finding the "only way" to reconstruct the corrections was to



Waugh (above) soon after the breakdown of his first marriage, (right) shortly before his death in 1966



## The mystery of the missing manuscript

What was the real story behind those *Vile Bodies*? Literary sleuth Martin Stannard embarks on the lengthy trail

collate the manuscript and the first edition.

It became evident that the manuscripts raised fundamental problems regarding "copy text", for three distinct sorts of "error" could arise apart from misprinting: mistranscribed words uncorrected by the author; "incorrect" words exactly transcribed and uncorrected by the author; and inadvertent alterations caused by the author failing to check back to the manuscript when illegible words had been omitted by the typist.

Other difficulties also arose. Waugh's early manuscripts were written quickly and, as such, are studied with misspellings, poor grammar and careless punctuation. Clearly he left it to the typist to "standardize" the text and there are frequent examples of over-zealous attention to this task, causing the prose to halt and judder.

Humorously idiosyncratic use of capital letters has usually been flattened into standard usage. Verbal speech has sometimes suffered a similar fate. In short, the editor of a "critical edition" would be faced with a series of complex decisions in constructing the most accurate copy text and the manuscript would have to play a vital role in this process.

The existence of the *Vile Bodies* typescript, then, was particularly interesting for the purpose of elucidating Waugh's process of composition. Here we could see him at work on his rough draft.

Examined in detail, though, it threw up a series of new problems. One would expect the corrections to agree with the first edition in all but minor instances which could be put down to proof correction. They didn't. Extraordinarily, many phrases deleted and replaced by others appeared unaltered in the printed text: the inked-in corrections were often ignored.

It is extremely unlikely that the extent of typewritten corrections was made and corrected so as to conform exactly to the original readings. It must for some reason have been ignored. Why? Perhaps, I thought, it had been mislaid in A. D. Peters' office (it is still in the agent's blue folder). Had it ever been part of Waugh's library he would probably have had it bound.

This led me to certain biographical questions and the investigation of an odd case in which bibliography and biography became mutually supportive. *Vile Bodies* is an intriguing work for from the biographer's point of view it was during the course of its composition that Waugh's first wife left him.

Christopher Sykes states in his *Evelyn Waugh: A Biography* (Collins, 1975) that the "dark element" in *Vile Bodies* lies in no way "reflects Evelyn's desolation at the breakdown of his marriage. It is an 'undeniable' view of the book was nearly finished when the breakdown

occurred, and there is no change of mood from the beginning to the end".

I, conversely, was wondering whether Mr Sykes had misinformed us and whether the typescript could act as evidence to contradict his assumption. Waugh himself had told Jebb: "I was in the middle of *Vile Bodies* when she left me..."

Peters was a punctilious businessman. The chances of his "losing" an important typescript would have been negligible and another theory suggested itself.

It was possible that the extant sheets formed that section (or most of it) completed and typed up before Evelyn Gardner's desertion. She was acting as Waugh's intermediary in London, receiving the manuscript by post while he was writing at a country pub (the Abingdon Arms in Beckley, near Oxford). The typist would then post it back to Waugh for correction who would, in turn, return it to Peters.

We know from his letters that for a period of at least two months after the marital disaster he was unable to write. On returning to the novel he might well have decided to ignore the initial corrections to the version sent to Peters, and corrected the entire work as a piece using a carbon of that version. This would explain how deleted original readings found their way back into the text and why "there is no change of mood from beginning to end".

In fact, the decision to ignore the first corrections could represent exactly the reverse of Mr Sykes's assumption: a conscious desire to give the entire work a consistently "darker" tone.

Again, there is no space here to itemize the evidence. But there is a notably "lighter" approach in the extant typescript. It is prefaced, for example, by the amiable epigraph: "Bright young people and others kindly note that all characters are wholly imaginary (and you get far too much publicity already wherever you are)". This has been replaced in the printed text by the two mordant quotations from *Through the Looking Glass*.

There are references to fashionable cockney chatter in a "stage direction" style which uniformly disappear. Generally, Waugh's pleasure in the anarchic Younger Set and his quiet pride in being its literary representative are obliterated by the alterations.

All this, however, was mere speculation. Was it possible to produce some harder evidence that the corrections to this section had been made before the separation? I wrote to the Humanities Research Center to try to discover the provenance of the typescript.

On one point my assumption proved correct: the typescript had not been part of Waugh's library but had belonged to Mr Stanley H. Bradford, Pennsylvania. I was given an address

but could secure to reply. No one, it seemed, could tell me the story behind the typescript's "disappearance". And there the matter remained - until recently.

Last October I went to Paris to interview Lady Diana Mosley. She and her first husband, Bryan Guinness, had been Waugh's closest friends in his time of emotional crisis in mid-1929. *Vile Bodies* is dedicated to them and as soon as it was finished he spent several weeks with them in Ireland and Paris.

Eventually, we began to talk about the novel. I remarked that it was odd that its manuscript should be the only significant gap in Waugh's collection. "Do you know," she said, "I believe he gave it to us." As calmly as I could, I asked where she thought it might be. She supposed Lord Moyne (Bryan Guinness) must have it.

I wrote to him immediately upon my return. Yes, Evelyn had given it to them but no, it was no longer in his possession. He had presented it to his son, Jonathan, as a thirtieth birthday gift. I wrote to him. Yes, he did have it and of course I could examine it.

Then came another letter. The manuscript was missing from its normal place in his library. He would look for it. A week later he wrote again. He had found it.

For the last few weeks I have been collating it with the first edition and the same interesting discrepancies have arisen as in the other manuscripts. Most interesting, though, has been the additional evidence to support the theory that Waugh was in the middle of writing the novel when his wife deserted him and that it was not, as Mr Sykes suggests, "nearly finished".

The pagination of the manuscript clearly suggests two large blocks of composition: pages 1-66 (which concludes with "End of Book I" deleted) and pages 1-66 (which concludes, as does the *Rossetti* manuscript, with "The End Thank God. EW"). (The first section does not marry exactly with the length of the extant typescript, being several pages longer, but it is clear from a catchword at the bottom of the last page of the typescript that there was originally more of it, now lost.)

When the pagination begins anew there is a change of paper and the new section opens with clear signs of disturbance: a truncated sheet followed by one marked "3" (deleted) then "2". It was most unusual for Waugh to scrap large sections in this fashion and the fact that he did so possibly suggests his difficulty in returning to the novel after the two-month gap during which his emotional security had collapsed.

Even the blank verses of the sheets can provide clues in this puzzle. Here are the fold marks, resulting from Waugh's posting his manuscript to Evelyn Gardner or, later, the typist.

As no two batches of paper can ever be folded in identical fashion, it is possible easily to identify the sections in which they were despatched or, alternatively, whether they were despatched at all.

According to Mr Sykes, 10,000 words of the novel had been written during the Mediterranean cruise Waugh and his wife had taken in early 1929. The absence of fold-marks for the manuscript pages 1-18 seems to bear this out. It would appear to signify that Waugh had the paper in his possession and delivered it (or had it delivered) by hand to the typist. Manuscript pages 19-51 were clearly posted as were all other sections (second "half", manuscript pages 1-23; 24-39; 40-53; 54-66) with one exception: pages 53 ("52" omitted in pagination) - 68, the section concluding the first "half".

If my assumption is correct - that it was at manuscript page 68 that the significant break in composition occurred - then it seems reasonable to suppose that it was manuscript pages 53-68 which he carried back to London on hearing the fundamentally shocking news that his wife was having an affair with John Heygate. The break occurs at the end of Chapter 6.

With this specific point of reference in mind it becomes clear that the "darker" tone of the book begins with Chapter 7 and the introduction of "Ginger" Littlejohn who is to encourage Nina's callous infidelity. Certain passages take on a particularly acerbic tone in the light of what can now be seen as recent events in Waugh's life.

In his letters he consistently referred to Heygate, who worked for the BBC, as the "Basement Boy". On only the third page of the new section of manuscript "cocktail parties given in basement flats by spotty announcers at the B.B.C." (Penguin, page 111). From this point Nina fades more and more into the background, Adam's mythical fortune recedes hopelessly beyond reach in the hands of the Drunken Major and the remarks about marriage seem poignantly to reflect the author's wounded pride.

The economy of the telephone conversation, for instance, in which Nina states her desire to marry Ginger (Penguin, page 183-4) appears as a terse reflection of Waugh's own situation. Adam's "I don't want ever to see you again" was precisely Waugh's reaction to Eve-Evelyn's desertion. When we read on page 9 of the new section, "... I don't know if it sounds absurd," said Adam, "but I do feel that a marriage ought to go on - for quite a long time, I mean. If you feel that too, at all?" and Nina replies "Yes, it's one of the things about a marriage" (Penguin page 123), can we avoid the conclusion that Waugh was using the book quietly to bite back?

Their conversation immediately prefaces the most famous passage in the book "... Marked parties, Savage parties, Victorian parties, ... Those vile bodies ..." (Penguin, page 123) which, the manuscript corrections suggest, Waugh clearly struggled with. Heygate had met Evelyn Gardner at a party in Waugh's absence. The section now concludes: "That succession and repetition of massed humanity ... Those vile bodies." Originally it read: "That succession of assembled people, interacting and interrelating, and each bearing away a part of one's self/one's life/and adding ..."

All this is deleted. "Those vile bodies" appears nowhere in the body of the manuscript and is a fine example of a crucial alteration at typescript stage. Perhaps Waugh felt the original version to be too personal.

If the reconstructed typescript emendations suggest any one thing consistently it is their author's desire to remove himself from the text. While there was always a little personal sniping in his novels, that element of *roman à clef* had always to be restricted to the quietest of private jokes. The points made here, the biographical rather than critical. They are not, I hope, based on biographical fancy. But while the critic should refrain from using the details of an author's life to explain his or her art, it is surely tenable for biographers to use a novel as another document in the file they keep on their subject, inevitably reflecting preoccupations of a particular period of his subject's life.

The extraordinary history of *Vile Bodies*, its composition divided by the traumatic separation which, arguably, converted its author into a "serious" writer, merits such attention.

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# Investigating the grey areas

Patrick Rabbitt looks at how we can assess intellectual change

Gerontology is a grey area, but through gerontologists and sociologists can have few other common interests. They share a social disadvantage. Questions from colleagues are frequent, predictable, nervous, and difficult to answer in any reassuring way. Are the obvious anxieties of middle-aged academics realistic? Broadbent at Oxford, Harris and Sunderland in Cambridge and Reason at Manchester have designed self-rating questionnaires which allow young people to subjectively quantify their impressions of lapses of memory, fits of absent-mindedness and other cognitive failures. Our small research group, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, has now given these questionnaires to over 3,000 volunteers aged from 50 to 90 years, who lead vigorous, independent lives in Oxfordshire and in Tyne and Wear.

One of our group, Vicky Abson, has also questioned 480 volunteers about the frequency with which they mislay and rediscover their possessions. On all these measures, over 50 per cent of our volunteers complain that they feel that they now suffer more from cognitive lapses than they did 30 years ago. (The few who say they have become more efficient generally perform so poorly on other objective tests of memory and problem solving that we suspect they have begun to forget that they forget...) Since scores on all these tests are highly correlated, even when we use other tests to detect individual variations due to depression and consequent low self-esteem, they all probably reflect the same, stable, subjective impressions of everyday efficiency.

However, our oldest and youngest volunteers give us identical subjective estimates, both of the amount of change they have experienced and of the frequency of their current lapses. Further, their subjective estimates of everyday lapses do not predict their actual efficiency on IQ tests, memory tasks, or any other measure we use. Indeed, within the most gifted groups in our sample the correlation between individual intelligence test scores and subjective complaints of incompetence is marginally negative. Our objectively most competent volunteers seem most anxious about declining ability.

## Making relative comparisons

We think that these results mean that people cannot evaluate their own competence in any absolute sense and must always make relative comparisons. Younger people successful at demanding jobs may be very conscious of inevitable lapses under pressure. Older retired people cease to explore their limits, and their involvements may shrink faster than their capacities. People with very exact spouses may become unduly humble. Thus subjective estimates of competence reflect idiosyncratic comparisons rather than absolute capacity. How, then, can we objectively assess intellectual change? As we grow old do we lose all, or only some, of our wits? Do we lose our faculties gradually, or suddenly and, in either case, at precisely what age do marked changes begin? Do some people age more slowly than others and, if so, what makes them so lucky and can more of us share that good fortune?

The best demographic evidence, published by H. C. Lehman from 1946 to 1962, summarized data on outstanding achievements in all academic disciplines, and by professionals such as doctors, composers, novelists, engineers and artists. His sad conclusions have often been questioned, but still stand. Most of the outstanding people he documented did their best work when relatively young. There were late-flowering individuals in all fields but overall statistical trends were uniform. Practitioners of different disciplines peaked at slightly different times, but these peaks were invariably followed by sharp declines. The best work in physics and mathematics

seems to have been achieved by people in their early twenties. In chemistry in the early thirties. In most fields of medicine between 35 and 40, with a slightly later peak for surgical innovations. Historians, composers and philosophers peaked in the mid-forties; artists and sculptors from 45 to 50 and "composers of German Grand Opera" (biased perhaps by paucity of exemplars), slightly later. There are fascinating discrepancies; although particle physicists and astronomers may have much in common, the latter go nova in their late forties when the former have long passed their half-lives for active article emission. A plausible interpretation is that differences in peaks between disciplines reflect differences in the relative points of potentiation of declining native wit and increasing acquired information necessary to achieve distinguished work. We could all do better work if we could master the necessary information and techniques before our wits fail us.

This bad news has not been passively accepted. One objection is that "outstanding achievements" cannot be easily agreed, and their age-incidence in exceptional individuals tells us little about the mass of mankind. Many of Lehman's relatively small samples of extremely gifted individuals died early. This does not work because curves for "lesser productions" or for "greatest productivity at any level" give very similar pictures for much larger groups. As the standard of achievement is lowered, age peaks are only slightly deferred, and distinctions between subjects remain. (I maintain that the exceptionally close concordance between age-peaks for "most valuable" and "lesser" achievements by psychologists must mean that all my colleagues make equally distinguished discoveries.)

A similar objection is that Lehman's data were biased by relatively high inclusion of figures from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when life expectancy was relatively low. More than half the academics who have existed in the history of the world are still working today. In spite of current financial policies, some of them are still quite young. The bulk of the data are not yet in. Alas, analysis of twentieth-century data lends no support. A more plausible objection is that productivity curves illustrate career patterns rather than the biology of age-changes. Pre-eminently able academics may be early retired to waste their lives as vice chancellors or deans. Even mediocre young talents may be dissipated in chairs. Such cruel advancement may blight young scientists leaving philosophers to a ripe blooming. Perhaps pressure to publish is greatest early in a career, especially in science. In early middle age limits to, and of, ambitions become clearer, and there is always the snoodyne of tenure. Families distract, goals change, energy rather than intelligence flags.

Further details hardly clarify this picture. It seems that people who make important early discoveries maintain productivity longer than those who do not. Perhaps brilliance endures, or perhaps early reward sustains effort? Young successful scientists may benefit by gaining resources for their middle-age which are unavailable to their less successful peers. The company of outstanding research students and post-doctoral fellows is forcefully put by Professor Ray Over, of N. Australia, who seriously proposes that scientists of proven and enduring unproductivity should be singled out for "enrichment" grants to bring out latent talent in mid-career. (He resists the suggestion that his some time ago. All these social factors plausibly affect even the best analysed cases, such as chess-playing ability, where a study by Elo, a statistician involved in the validation of the American Chess Federation rating system, convincingly shows that tournament results for players of varying strengths closely match earlier data on achievements of grandmasters.)

It is very unlikely that demographic data on career achievement can be used to disentangle intrinsic, biological

changes separately from social and motivational factors. To do this we still have no better recourse than laboratory experiments. Happily, investigators such as Neil Charness of Waterloo University, in demonstrating how age decrements in chess and bridge-playing skill are due to particular, identifiable, losses of memory and computational ability, incidentally also show that even if such experiments must be limited they need not be trivial, dull, or remote from everyday life.

The main obstacles to studying aging in the laboratory come from cohort effects. People now aged 80 are time-travellers, exiled to a foreign country which they now share with current 20-year-olds. These groups have been fed, housed and educated very differently, have received, or failed to receive, different medical treatment for different conditions, have been taught to prize different skills and attitudes, and have been shaped by dramatically different experiences. A compounding difficulty is that there are two limiting descriptions of how we lose our wits as we grow old. (I am afraid that we must admit that we do.) The first is that briefly reaching an intellectual peak early in life we steadily decline, faster with each decade, until we reach a terminus in our mid to late seventies. Lucky individuals may have better trajectories than others but all continuously deteriorate. An opposing possibility, greatly preferred by the middle-aged, is that we all maintain a plateau of competence from our early twenties until a "terminal drop" begins shortly before we die.

## Average performance falls with age

The practical difficulty for aging studies is that we cannot distinguish between these possibilities by single comparisons between groups of people of different ages. On the continuous decline model, average performance falls with age because all individuals get steadily worse as they grow old. On the "terminal drop" model average performance also falls with age because older groups contain increasing numbers of "droppers" and fewer "survivors". Unfortunately both models also predict that variance in competence between individuals will be greater in older groups. For example, in 1963 I managed to test decision-speeds of people of more than two hundred years in each age decade between 20 and 90. Average scores declined with age, slightly rapidly between 20 and 40, and then more gradually thereafter. But the most striking finding was that about 5 per cent of people aged between 70 and 80 were as competent as the average of 20 to 30-year-olds. This point is that these results cannot limit the possibilities: I do not know whether my best septagenarians had steadily declined from some even higher stratum, or whether they were due to their peers having completed their "terminal drop".

This question can only be settled by repeatedly testing very large numbers

of people over many years to see whether, and how, they change with age, and by plotting changes backwards from dates of death rather than forwards from dates of birth. Such a task can obviously only be undertaken by someone delicate only poised at an age old enough to gain support and young enough to have a chance of surviving to write up some of the results. Prudently backed by much younger colleagues in Manchester, Oxford and Newcastle I have, so far, been able to test each of 3,000 people aged between 50 and 90 only once on 26 different measures of memory, of various "kinds" of "intelligence", of problem solving ability and of decision speed. We have also tested small groups of 150 to 300 people on simulations of particular real-life situations, such as shopping in a supermarket, understanding and remembering television news broadcasts, finding their way about familiar and unfamiliar towns, on inspection tasks such as proof-reading, and on ability at simple video games.

Our basic finding confirms earlier suspicions that age groups differ more on some intellectual skills than on others. Very marked age differences occur on problems involving spatial relationships - however our oldest and youngest groups were also required to match provided verbal definitions to the correct one of a choice of six. Plausibly appropriate, rare words. These "verbal IQ tests" are interesting because, in the youngest groups, their scores fairly closely predict scores on other IQ tests, or logical reasoning and arithmetical ability, on which scores (and so assessed "IQ") sharply declines with age.

Because verbal test scores apparently remain unchanged very late in life, an elderly person's current score on verbal tests allows us to accurately estimate his or her youthful score on a variety of other, age-sensitive, tests. Thus when an elderly person has a very much higher "verbal IQ" than "performance IQ" we may guess that there has been considerable cognitive change since youth. Where discrepancies are small, so also is probable change. Allowing for variance due to marked discrepancies between verbal and non-verbal scores which can exist even in young individuals it is still possible to make statistical comparisons. On this basis, about 10 per cent of our 70-year-olds, 5 per cent show no greater discrepancy between both kinds of IQ test scores than we would expect within a 20-year-old sample. It is therefore plausible that these are lucky individuals who have changed very little as they have grown old, and that we can learn much to our advantage by studying them further.

Do scores on "intelligence tests" indicate more than the ability to perform on other "intelligence tests"? Our results suggest that although IQ tests are, notoriously unsatisfactory measures they are still the best general guides to "intellectual" competence available. For 3,000 people, performance intelligence test scores (indicating ability to solve simple arithmetical and logical problems quickly) accurately predict efficiency at recalling the content of television news broadcasts, generating word-lists from defined categories, speed of reaction times, efficiency at detecting resemblance

shopping and at variety of other tasks. In contrast, age does not predict performance on any of these tasks when performance IQ test scores are taken into account. Bluntly, if people aged 50 to 89 have identical performance IQ test scores, they perform equally well on all our tests. Chronological ages tell us nothing useful.

This news may please any age academic snugly aware of a recent high score on an IQ test. There is a catch. Average performance IQ test scores decline steadily as average groups increase. It is an open possibility that our highest scoring volunteers have declined from even more impressive peaks. Do the best fall fastest, or "from him that hath not shall even that which he hath be taken away"? Our evidence suggests otherwise. Distributions of verbal IQ test scores remain precisely the same in the age groups we survey. Thus we can stratify each age-group into four verbal IQ test score levels, and be certain that people at these levels, whatever their ages, had very similar performance IQ scores in their youth. This allows us to look at age-differences within closely comparable performance groups. The result has surprised us. Four different ability groups, covering the IQ spectrum, all show precisely the same absolute score decrements with increasing average sample age. In other words, as far as we can judge, gifted and less gifted young people lose precisely the same absolute score at each of all the measures we have devised as they grow old. A concrete example our best (verbal IQ matched) group, recall about 17 out of 30 rapidly presented words at average age 55 and 12 out of 30 at average age 75. Our least efficient groups recall about 8 out of 30 words at average age 55 and 3 out of 30 at average age 75.

## Natural justice proves an illusion

As always, a pleasing hint of a natural justice proves an illusion. The ablest lose proportionately less. A millionaire will not miss £1,000, but acquaintances will not notice the difference. For a person with only £2,000 this is a severe, and public, alteration. My research group is paid to offer some comfort to our older academic colleagues, but they manage their affairs very well, and any concern would be impertinent. We are much happier to have found ways to predict which of the currently competent 50-year-olds we assess may be in urgent need of help in 10 or 20 years. As for our group, we can now tell them that as they grow old they will find it increasingly difficult to say about the process of aging will be increasingly less insightful and original. But we will say them as well as ever, and probably at very much greater length.

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"Now I saw in my dream, that just as they had ended this talk, they drew nigh to a very miry slough, that was in the midst of the plain... The name of the slough was Despond." So write John Bunyan in *Pilgrim's Progress* referring to the desolate Marston Vale, south of Bedford. Three hundred years later the area retains its misomic quality, scarred by clay pits and polluted by fumes from the London Brick Company. It is the setting for a fierce struggle between the company and environmentalists between 1979 and 1983. It is more than a dramatic story, it is also a theoretical adventure probing and developing issues which are at the heart of contemporary debate in the social sciences.

As the details of the conflict unfold a number of questions are posed. Why did the conflict occur when and where it did? What interests were involved and who did they represent? What accounts for the political alignments that developed? Was the outcome inevitable or unpredictable? Answers to these questions depend on interpretations from different theories of power. There are those which emphasize the role of agencies in defining issues and controlling events and those which stress the significance of underlying structures which determine outcomes. The analysis of this case suggests, what many social scientists have come to accept, that understanding of power can be achieved through greater tolerance of contending theories than through the adoption of entrenched positions.

The London Brick case offers a fruitful empirical source for theoretical exploration. By a process of mergers and takeovers the company emerged in the early 1970s with a monopoly of the cheap flint brickmaking industry based on the Oxford clay in the Bedford-Peterborough area. Early planning permissions granted at a time when bricks were badly needed enabled the company to create derelict land and pollute the air without serious challenge. But environmental opposition perceived its opportunity for clean up in 1978 when the company announced its intention of redeveloping its brickworks in the Marston Vale.

At first the company seemed prepared to negotiate. Although its proposed land chimneys would disperse and dilute the pollutants, it was prepared to install a third flue so that pollution could be eliminated if a satisfactory method could be found. An agreement was reached over landscaping and the restoration of the pits (if sufficient could be obtained). But such efforts did not placate their opponents who, organized in local interest groups with such evocative acronyms as BACAP, CAC and GASP, were demanding the complete renewal of the industry and its undesirable effects from their localities.

A broad alliance of powerful interests was formed to coordinate the opposition to the company. The group, known as PROBE (Public Review of Brickmaking and the Environment) was chaired by Bedfordshire's leading noble and landowner, the Marquis of Tavistock and included farming, business, academic and political (local and national) interests. Using a subtle and flexible strategy of propaganda and lobbying (including a champagne and caviar reception) it recognized its best chance of success lay with influencing the local politicians who would decide the company's planning application.

PROBE ensured that the decision would be taken by the full county council of 83 members rather than by the planning committee which was sympathetic to the company's plans. Faced by the gathering opposition the company tried one last concession, an agreement to defer the later phases of the works pending research on pollution control provided they were given the go-ahead with no strings attached. There was no hope of compromise. The county council met three times during 1980 to decide the issue. On the first occasion a decision was deferred but on the second, against expectations, an amendment was passed requiring pollution control on all phases of the new works. The company tried by a mixture of legal tergiversation and veiled threats of investment withdrawal to recover its ground but suffered a further rebuff at the third meeting.

The tide of events now moved swiftly in the company's favour. It had taken out investment options elsewhere and, early in 1981, neighbouring Cambridgeshire approved a new works without the stringent conditions applied by Bedfordshire. As the recession bit deeper and unsold brick stocks



Looking across the clay pits to the chimneys of the London Brick Company

# Lessons from the slough of Despond

Andrew Blowers looks at what we can learn from the London Brick case

grew the company decided to reduce production. The Ridgmont works in Bedfordshire was selected for closure with the loss of 1,100 jobs. With employment, rather than the environment as the central issue, the trade unions began to apply pressure on councillors urging the need for new work in the county. A campaign favouring new works attracted support in the brickfields and the opposition was clearly on the run. The county council had deferred a decision on one of the new works applied for (at Ridgmont) and the planning committee seized the opportunity to grant the permission without reference to the council and without the pollution condition. A change in circumstances and a touch of serendipity thus enabled the company to snatch a victory from the jaws of defeat. But it was a Pyrrhic victory. All sides had lost. Pollution remained from the existing works, jobs had been lost and no new works have, as yet, been built.

## Pluralist theory emphasizes conflict of interests

Broad theoretical perspectives when applied to this case are only partially convincing. Pluralist theory emphasizes conflicts of interests each with access to an open and responsive decision making process in which participants respond to changing circumstances with the result that outcomes are unpredictable. The climax of the conflict fought out in the full scale requiring pollution control on all phases of the new works. The company tried by a mixture of legal tergiversation and veiled threats of investment withdrawal to recover its ground but suffered a further rebuff at the third meeting.

access to county officials and PROBE possessed a wide range of influential contacts. While such insights offer a refinement to pluralist theory which matches the case more precisely, the focus on action (or inaction) deflects attention away from the underlying causes of the conflict and its outcome.

It is here that structuralist accounts appear more compelling. Taken in its broader economic and political context the company is seen to enjoy sufficient reserves of power to achieve its objectives whatever local opposition it generates. But, taken to an extreme, conclusory structuralism suggests an inevitability about outcomes that is contradicted by evidence and experience. This leads to the unlikely presumption that people engage in conflicts which they have no hope of influencing. As Hindess observes, "struggles over divergent objectives really are struggles, not the playing out of some preordained script".

What is needed are mediating concepts which bridge the gap between the particular and the general, theory and evidence. With the aid of such concepts it becomes possible to build intermediate steps from the abstract to the complex realities of power. From the London Brick case four pairs of mediating concepts can be identified which perform this intellectual task. These are, environment and economy; politics and expertise; national and local; and time and space.

"Environment" and "economy" were the issues at stake in the conflict. Environment appeals both to interests intent on preserving amenity and profit (farmers) and to a broader constituency concerned about public health. This combination of self-interest and altruism enables environmentalists to mobilize support across class barriers. For different reasons "economic" interests can transcend class as the support of the workers for the company demonstrates. Indeed, during a recession the very weakness of business proves its greatest strength in resisting environmental control since investment and profits are at a premium and workers have nowhere else to go.

Cross cutting class alignments are reflected also in environmental politics. The dominant Conservative group on the county council was irrevocably split with half the group

supporting the landed and farming interests and half backing business capital represented by London Brick. This enabled the small Labour group to hold the balance of power in the council debates by supporting the environmental case but only at the cost of fraternal conflict with its trade union allies in the brickfields. Whereas the environmentalists exploited the opportunities created by these political divisions, London Brick was careful to foster its privileged access to the administrative machine. The interaction of company, officials and the planning committee provided a form of administrative politics which proved able, in the end, to overcome the opposition of the open and pluralistic county council.

## The reality of power confirms the 'dual state' theory

The company's power was considerable at local level but, when the focus is widened to incorporate national interests its power seems overwhelming. Throughout the conflict London Brick could count on the support of central government ministers and agencies such as the Alkali Inspectorate. The reality of power confirms the "dual state" notion put forward by Peter Saunders which suggests that investment policies supporting business capital are promoted through corporatist agencies at central level while consumption policies (such as environmental improvements in this case) are determined locally through pluralist political processes. There is one important qualification here. London Brick was able to apply pressure through corporatist relationships with government at both national and local levels.

The dimensions of time and space provide, further confirmation of the superior power of business in an environmental conflict such as this. Although environmental opposition has increased over the years, business power has the capacity for resurgence especially at times of recession. London

Brick was, in any case, able to play off Bedfordshire against Cambridgeshire by threatening to invest elsewhere and by closing the Ridgmont works. The conflict may have altered the timing, location and details of the new works, but did not deflect the company from its overall strategy.

Viewed through these mediating concepts the interaction of structures and agencies in the course of the conflict and its outcome can be perceived. But, neither structures nor agents are immutable but subject to change as subsequent events in the brickfields have shown. Shortly after the conflict ended the company, its fortunes reviving, fell, after a long and bitter struggle, into the predatory clutches of the Hanson Trust. London Brick is now part of an international financial empire and relationships between company and community have become more distant. In another respect their interests have come closer together. John Bunyan's slough of Despond at Elstow has been earmarked as a possible site for the burial of nuclear waste. The site is on the Oxford clay coveted by the brick industry with the full support of the local community. In this coming conflict London Brick is likely, ironically, to emerge on the side of the angels.

These changes remind us that explanations derived from an case do no more than reveal the processes at work. They cannot be transferred without modification to other cases and may have been different in other circumstances. What they do show is that structural forces may supply the underlying dynamics of power but that there is plenty of scope for actions, which are responsible for its complex patterns. The evidence of this and other studies demonstrates the need to abandon polarized positions and to occupy the middle ground in between. There are signs of such a theoretical convergence occurring as new concepts provide more qualified and less dogmatic answers to questions of power.

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## BOOKS

### Different styles of leadership

*The Warrior and the Priest: Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt*  
by John Milton Cooper, Jr  
Harvard University Press, £17.00  
ISBN 0 674 94750 9

The American presidency is an intensely personal institution. Despite the weight of constitutional circumscription, its character will reflect the vision of the incumbent – witness the way Franklin Roosevelt's policies transformed America in the 1930s. Yet, as John Milton Cooper suggests, the attention devoted to FDR's model of the presidency has caused observers to neglect the political legacies of two of his immediate predecessors.

Those two presidents – Theodore

Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson – were competitors for office and followed careers which overlapped at a number of points. Both died with the taste of defeat rather than victory in their mouths. The contrasts between them and their contributions to the course of twentieth-century American politics is explored in Professor Cooper's study in terms of Nietzsche's distinction between the warrior (whose will-to-power is a direct result of natural strength and virility) and the priest (the intellectual who compensates for physical cowardice by craft, investing his deviousness with the halo of morality). However, as Professor Cooper demonstrates, such a dichotomy is a useful starting point but ultimately too simplistic for understanding the psychologies of such complicated personalities as Roosevelt and Wilson.

Superficially, the two men did indeed seem polar opposites. Warrior Roosevelt – the pugacious duke – came from a socially sophisticated New York background and he played the colourful cowboy in politics from start to finish. Priestly Wilson came from a family of Presbyterian ministers and gained his apprenticeship in politics, not in the Tammany-infested politics of New York, but in the no less devious world of Princeton. However, as Professor Cooper emphasizes, both

Roosevelt and Wilson were intellectuals in politics who sought power for constructive purposes and appreciated the extent to which America was in a state of transition, domestically and internationally.

Their juxtaposition – apparent in their writings – cleverly underlines the variety and contradiction of America in this period. *The Winning of the West* reflected Roosevelt's boyish enthusiasms for frontiers and fighting and the promise of an ever expanding America. *Congressional Government* reflected the problems of governing the turbulent political entity which had developed over the nineteenth century. Somewhat ironically, Wilson concluded that there was little room for presidential leadership in a system dominated by the legislature; echoing Walter Bagehot, he sought some efficient means of overcoming the centrifugal tendencies of the American constitution's elaborate checks and balances and multiple and conflicting interests. Yet determined presidential leadership – as Wilson himself demonstrated – can make the system cohere; but in its absence a system designed for eighteenth-century use seems doomed to deadlock.

A responsible party system could also have provided the link which would have transformed separated powers into working government. But

both Wilson and Roosevelt lived in a world torn between political machines and atomistic direct democracy. Paradoxically, it was the corrupt machines which in many ways proved better at delivering the reforms desired by the nation's social critics. Roosevelt's experience as Police Commissioner and later Governor of New York, of course, made him intimately acquainted with the poverty portrayed by "muck-raking" journalists such as Lincoln Steffens and Jacob Riis; and it also alerted him to the importance of the press in the process of building support for radical policies. Franklin Roosevelt's use of the fireside chat to force a national consensus was thus prefigured in Teddy Roosevelt's appreciation of the presidency as a "bully-pulpit". If Roosevelt's commitment to radical reform was not as great as Professor Cooper appreciates – working within a political system where executive inaction, rather than intervention, was the norm.

Like most significant presidents of the twentieth century, both Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson could not be constrained by orthodox party politics. Roosevelt's was too exuberant a personality to mesh easily with regular Republicans even without the controversial issues which he seemed to champion. Wilson, although

whisked from the presidency of France to the state governorship by the then now not unfamiliar route from machine and rapidly became a reforming legislator – more radical in spirit and effect than Roosevelt – indicated an unusual mastery of Congress and a capacity for forceful leadership which surprised observers who had not appreciated the steady state of Wilson's character.

In fact, Wilson's academic career foreshadowed the quality of his presidency. It displayed his decision-making style and perhaps (although it is still a matter of medical and historical controversy) the way in which Wilson's health affected his judgments. To a Princeton from whence, Wilson introduced imaginative changes: the "receptor guys" who gave individual supervision, curriculum innovation and expansion of the natural sciences. However, even without the weaknesses that weakened him, a penchant for taking decisions alone and an unwillingness to compromise led Wilson into difficulties and his final years at Princeton – with their struggles over whether and where to build a graduate college – marred his achievement as his failure to win the internal debate over the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations formed a disquieting end to his period in the White House.

The controversies which defined Wilson's last years showed how an American polity was changing. Foreign policy would increasingly define the presidential role, and Roosevelt and Wilson's reactions to the developments set in train by the First World War themselves represented American ambivalence to the new international situation. Roosevelt welcomed America's growing international power – especially since his heroic vision of America's future required a prelude like himself. Wilson only wanted the national involvement if the nation could be adjusted to an order where America could feel morally comfortable. His agonizing over whether to intervene in the First World War reflected fear of what the involvement might do to America's domestic politics. Although the imperial presidency had not by that stage been born, it was conceived in the mobilization for the First World War; and the ethnic hostilities and tensions of the period underlined the difficulties inherent in conducting foreign policy for a nation built of some many immigrant groups.

Ultimately, this study is an interesting for the questions which it raises about the nature of American politics as it is for the insights which it offers into the psychologies of two politicians whose extraordinary careers embodied such a political downsizing. It is not a substitute for such magisterial biographies as Arthur Link's *Life of Wilson* but as a stimulating piece of writing deserves a wide readership.

**Gillian Peele**  
*Gillian Peele is a fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.*



Fitting a child's gas mask, a photograph from *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain* edited by Kenneth O. Morgan, just published by Oxford University Press at £15.00.

## BOOKS

### An age of total war

*British Society 1914-45*  
by John Stevenson  
Allen Lane, £16.95 and Penguin, £2.95  
ISBN 0 7139 1390 8 and 0 14 022084 4

Total war is nothing if not paper-intensive. The American Army alone in the Second World War generated more than 17,000 tons of the stuff. The British, too, often appear to have done more writing than fighting. The sheer density of documentation, official and private, weighs like a nightmare upon the modern historian. A lifetime's reading and research barely suffices to scratch the surface of this monstrous mass of material.

Longevity, though, is not enough. The historian, commissioned to provide a fresh synthesis within the confines of a single volume, must also be something of a polymath, able to draw the arcane specialists into which the discipline is increasingly divided, and able to communicate his or her scholarship to a non-specialized audience. In short, the historian of modern Britain must be talented and brave.

John Stevenson is both. An accomplished and prolific author, his latest volume provides an interesting, informative and eminently-readable survey of British society in the age of total war.

An introductory chapter outlining the shape of Edwardian Britain sets the scene for a detailed analysis of the experience of the Great War. This is followed by a wider discussion of the economic and material developments which affected Britain between the wars. The years which witnessed the development of new industries, prosperous suburbs and a general rise in living standards were also years of stagnation in the areas of heavy industry together with massive unemployment, bitter years in which millions experienced nothing but hunger, hardship and ill-health. Dr Stevenson addresses this paradox and much more besides.

The demographic dimension of social and economic change to which students are introduced represents a welcome advance upon previous general histories of the period, for, as the author remarks, "the really important decisions in history are made by pairs of adults in bed". The impact of demographic change upon family size, living standards, the status of women and children and its importance to housing, welfare, education, social policy and social structure provides a fresh insight into familiar subjects. Leisure, religion and cultural developments are not, however, sacrificed in this lively and comprehensive account.

**David Englander**  
*Dr Englander is lecturer in European humanities studies at the Open University.*

## BOOKS

### Genetic jackpot

*A Slot Machine, A Broken Test Tube: an autobiography*  
by S. E. Luria  
Harper & Row, £12.50  
ISBN 0 06 337036 0

The autobiographical genre is used for many purposes – to set the record straight, to expose inadequate recognition, to establish one's contribution or to make a confession. This autobiography belongs to a series whose authors have been selected by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to record their own accounts of their lives in science in order to foster public understanding of science.

Among the six books so far published is Freeman Dyson's *Disturbing the Universe*, and Sir Peter Medawar's *Advice to a Young Scientist*. It is appropriate therefore that the contribution commissioned from Salvador Luria, now Sedgwick Professor of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, should emphasize his conception of the distinctive nature of science. At the same time his career offers a classic example of intellectual and geographical migration (from histology to bacteriophage biology, and from Italy to the United States), and of political activity commensurate with that of scientists like Linus Pauling and Barry Commoner.

The text can be divided into three sections, the first dealing with his early career in Italy, the second with his major successes in bacteriology and virology, the third with his experiences as a bureaucrat, his love of poetry, his involvement in politics, and finally his psychological problem of depression. Throughout this very frank text, I was conscious of the author's rejection of the ideals of his lower-middle class family background in Turin. Timid father, hypochondriac mother and brother, a home where do-it-yourself was inappropriate to one's class, where opiate addiction remained a family secret not to be divulged to friends, and the real financial state of the family had to be hidden under a simulation of economic security. "I was on my way to becoming cynical", recalls Luria, "because of my inability to be straightforward".

Although he nurtured a longing for academic life he elected for a medical career, then turned to radiobiology as a step towards biophysical research. The turning point came when he fell among the Rome physicists – Franco Rasetti, Ettore Majorana, Amaldi, and Enrico Fermi – and began to think in a more analytical manner than he found was customary for biologists. Rasetti introduced him to a paper of the German physicist, Max Delbrück, whose theoretical study of the gene fired Luria's enthusiasm. This study, based on the results of K. G. Zimmer and N. W. Tinocelli-Ressovsky's experiments in using X-rays to produce mutations in the fruit fly, suggested that the gene was a molecule about which we could learn something by studying how it could be altered and damaged. He then met the Italian bacteriologist, Gino Riva, who introduced him to the bacteriophages (virus-like parasites of bacteria), and Luria's career as a student of bacteriophage had begun.

In Paris, a fugitive from Mussolini's Italy, Luria met Bernard Halloway and Eugene Wollman who were also studying X-ray-damaged microorganisms, and together they obtained evidence for the view that the bacteriophage acted as a single unit. As has been the case with so many of those scientists who emigrated from Europe, the main lines on which Luria was to build his research career in America had already been laid down before he went – lines established as a result of the interdisciplinary nature of the research activities of a few European physicists and biologists, and from which Luria's research was largely excluded.

Luria's most important contribution came in 1943 in Bloomington, Indiana. There, supported by a theoretical contribution from Delbrück, an émigré physicist-turned-biologist, he initiated the long 'controversy' over the mechanism by which bacteria become resistant to phage infection. Was it an adaptive response, an "accommoda-

tion", to the presence of the phage which, once acquired, was inherited, or was it due to spontaneous mutation, which pre-existed independent of the presence of the phage? In his famous fluctuation experiment Luria used the statistics of rare events, as mutations were known to be, to show that the cause was in fact mutation. The idea occurred to him while watching someone use a slot machine at a faculty dance.

The image of science Luria projects is of the natural sciences, with which he repeatedly compares the social sciences unfavourably. The main distinguishing features of the natural sciences for Luria are the comparative absence of controversy, the rarity of fraud, the lack of authoritarianism and the wealth of shared knowledge. Where revolutions have taken place in science, they have concerned the rejection of "a common sense picture bolstered by religious authority" and the substitution of a "rational analysis of objective reality".

Luria's own scientific biography, however, is ill-suited to exemplify this picture. His fluctuation test settled a long controversy over the manner in which bacteria acquire resistance to phage, a phenomenon that could also be applied to the process of acquiring drug resistance. Many bacteriologists, among them the idiosyncratic physical chemist, Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, whose views the fluctuation experiment was designed to refute – saw drug resistance as just one example of the many ways in which bacteria adjust to new environments, one celebrated example being the power to produce an enzyme capable of digesting a new food (enzyme adaptation).

Just as Luria resolved the bacterial mutation controversy so did François Jacob and Jacques Monod resolve the debate over the mechanism of enzyme adaptation 18 years later. Equally there was controversy over the chemical identity of the genetic material, Luria himself changing his allegiance from nucleic acid to protein at a crucial

stage in the work of the phage group at MIT, and what of the controversy over the assertion that each gene controls the production of one particular enzyme which was only finally settled by the work on temperature-sensitive mutants? Even the double-helical structure for DNA has not been free from controversy – witness the debate over the ambiguity of the supporting X-ray data, and the serious evaluation of an alternative, the warped zipper model, before it was rejected. It is difficult to accept Luria's picture as valid, and even more difficult to hope that it will increase the public's understanding of science.

In truth there beats the heart of a positivist behind the pen of Professor Luria, for mark the symptoms: the superiority of the natural over the social sciences, of reason over revelation and of physicists over all other species of scientist, especially over naturalists. If the author finds he has prejudices against history of science, perhaps it is not merely because the

historian studies discarded science as well as that which has been successfully incorporated into the corpus of modern science, but because historical scholarship does not support his conception of the nature of science.

As for the personal story recounted in these pages, we can but admire the enthusiasm and sheer determination with which the author overcame the numerous obstacles thrown across his path to a career in academic science. As we learn in the absorbing chapter on his political activities, his qualities served him well outside as well as inside science. Though disappointed with Luria's recollections and reflections on science, I felt rewarded by the glimpses he gives of that now distant world of "biophysics" in the 1930s, where the most popular tool was an X-ray machine.

**Robert Olby**

*Robert Olby is reader in the history of science at the University of Leeds.*

## BOOKS

### Singular features

*Catastrophe Theory*  
by V. I. Arnold  
Springer, DM16.80  
ISBN 3 540 12859 X

Vladimir Arnold is a giant among contemporary mathematicians, and one of the three who stand out in the creation and development of catastrophe theory. For largely non-mathematical reasons, only the other two are known to the public – at least in the west. René Thom's remote, mystical philosophizing and Christopher Zeeman's easy style of down-to-earth communication combined into an intoxicating mixture whose effect was to give the subject a popularity almost unprecedented for a branch of mathematics. But the immense and continuing contributions of Arnold and his Moscow school have remained obscure to non-mathematicians. Therefore, the publication of Arnold's first popular book in English is a significant event.

Catastrophe theory consists of the branch of geometry called singularity theory, together with its applications. A singularity is a sudden change in the value of some quantity, or the shape of some geometrical figures, that occurs as some other quantity varies continuously. Arnold illustrates this in the simplest possible way: a face is a smooth surface, but we see it as having

sharp outlines – a discontinuity on the retina between "face" and "no face". Other elementary examples are the curves of horizons (projections of smooth landscapes) and the sand ridges on an overflowing spade.

In several mathematical contexts, complete classifications have been discovered of such singularities and their higher-dimensional generalizations. It is the resulting descriptions of how discontinuity can emerge from continuity that have given catastrophe theory its promise of wide-ranging applicability.

In physical science the most audacious application of the classification is in cosmology. Density and velocity fluctuations in the early universe inevitably develop mass concentrations in the form of "pancake" singularities which evolve into a vast cosmic foam with cells that are now hundreds of millions of light-years across. The cells are bounded by sheets consisting of clusters and superclusters of galaxies; the giant spaces inside the cells appear entirely devoid of galaxies. The theory was originated by Ya. B. Zel'dovich and given mathematical elaboration and depth by Arnold.

Another successful application in physics, less dramatic but confirmed experimentally in much more detail, is to optical focusing, where the singularities (caustics) are discontinuities of light intensity. The mathematics of light intensity is a sudden change in the value of some quantity, or the shape of some geometrical figures, that occurs as some other quantity varies continuously. Arnold illustrates this in the simplest possible way: a face is a smooth surface, but we see it as having

## BOOKS

### A grand scheme

*Quarks and Leptons: an introductory course in modern particle physics*  
by Francis Halzen and Alan D. Martin  
Wiley, £23.95  
ISBN 0 471 88741 2

Twenty years ago high-energy physics was in a confusing state; hundreds of "elementary" particles abounded and no adequate theories existed to deal with them. Then the first breakthrough occurred when it was realized that protons, neutrons and their many siblings are built from a handful of more fundamental particles – the quarks. Today we know that all particles which respond to the powerful nuclear forces are built from quarks. In contrast, particles like the electron, which are blind to the strong nuclear force and are in consequence not bound in the nucleus, are called generically "leptons". Quarks and leptons are the stuff of matter, the building blocks of the universe.

Knowing the names of the actors is one thing; understanding the script is another. In the past decade, however, great progress has been made in understanding the script. Theories linking the electromagnetic and weak nuclear forces have been constructed and these have recently been verified with the discovery of the weak radiation quanta, the W and Z particles. Inspired by these successes the theorists have built similar theories of the strong nuclear force and the hints, albeit less conclusive, are that here too theory is on the right track. Exciting consequences await if the theorists are correct. Grand unified

theories have been written down and are already being put to the test. The origin of the universe is even encompassed in the grand scheme.

The pace has been so fast that it has left many of the textbooks behind. My own *Introduction to Quarks and Partons* (Academic Press, 1979) already has a dated look in parts, as the theory of quantum chromodynamics (which is thought to govern quark attributes) has now put many of the ideas on a more solid base. Although Halzen and Martin's *Quarks and Leptons* does not go into as much detail, it does complement the modern ideas on gauge theories as outlined in Ian Alcock and Anthony Hey's acclaimed *Gauge Theories in Particle Physics* (Adam Hilger, 1981). As a result, Halzen and Martin have produced a useful and up-to-date introductory course-book in particle physics.

*Quarks and Leptons* will be a joy both for students and for teachers. In the preface the authors have shown how it can be exploited as the basis of various teaching options; it could help an undergraduate course on the introduction of Feynman rules for quantum electrodynamics; it could provide suitable material for an advanced quantum mechanics course alongside the more traditional subjects such as atomic physics; it has much phenomenological material on electroweak and quantum chromodynamics; theories; and it will surely find its main appeal in the many colleges offering introductory courses on modern particle physics.

The authors have all the credentials for writing this book; they are established workers in the forefront of phenomenological applications of modern theory, and in addition are both stimulating lecturers. These qualities show through in the text. At times their sources are rather antiquated, but the book is a pleasure to read, and the other texts mentioned above might

feel that they are duplicating purchases, but ultimately the authors have digested their sources well and made pedagogical contributions of their own. In particular I liked the way that, having developed the ideas of scaling violations of quark distribution functions, the authors pause and invite the reader (exercise 10.7) to question the essential features that have caused the mathematical results to have come about as they did. This is a sign of good teachers who understand what they are writing about. The result is a flowing, well-balanced text that readers can learn from, not merely a collection of facts culled from the literature.

My only substantial disappointment was in the first chapter. Although this "prelude of particle physics" attempts to be a semi-popular description of the field, it is rather out of tune with the rest of the book and never quite seems sure of what its level is. Some of its examples are misleading or incomplete (assuming that the reader has not yet studied the rest of the book). My recommendation is that you read the remaining chapters first, as these will give you an excellent introduction to the subject and enable you to understand or do without chapter one.

The book contains nearly 200 exercises which amplify the text. To save teachers embarrassment, as well as aiding lone pupils, the authors have provided an appendix full of hints and references for solving the exercises. This will make it popular with many who have been given the task of lecturing on this exciting subject, as well as stimulating good students to read further.

**Frank Close**

*Frank Close is senior principal scientific officer at the SERC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot.*

These applications and many others are explained with minimal technicality and with the clarity which characterizes Arnold's more mathematical expositions. The arguments are abundantly illustrated with diagrams. However, when commenting in disparaging fashion about the important contributions that other people have made, Arnold is less reliable (although undeniably entertaining). In an awkward attempt to establish intellectual distance from a group of which he is in fact a leading member, he refers to these colleagues as "catastrophe theorists"; he accuses them of "trying to avoid the serious mathematics"; of "catastrophic lowering of the level of the requirement of rigour"; and of "lack of respect for their predecessors" – while himself attributing the delayed emergence of singularity theory to "psychological inertia and the dominance of the axiomatic-deductive style". Some of these criticisms stem from the distance with which Arnold regards Zeeman's and Thom's use of catastrophe theory to discuss problems in (for example) sociology and biology, to which mathematics cannot always be "applied" in the clearcut fashion of theoretical physics but is rather "invoked" using metaphors that the mathematics suggests.

The translation is often inept and occasionally flustered and printing errors abound. The references are careless or, in the case of some recent Soviet results, tantalizingly non-existent. However, Springer have promised a second edition in which all will be put right. My advice, especially to non-specialist readers for whom learning about catastrophe theory is not a priority, is to wait for that.

**Michael Berry**

*Michael Berry is professor of physics at the University of Bristol.*



## International conflicts of labour law: A survey of the law applicable to the international employment relation, by Felice Morgenstern

The movement of workers from one country to another, whether as migrants or because their job requires them to travel, and the operations of companies in countries other than those in which they were established, are matters that raise questions regarding the law to be applied to individual and collective labour relations. The questions are of practical importance in view of the considerable differences in labour legislation from country to country. In this comparative survey, the author analyses the approaches to such questions under various legal systems, and illustrates the practical implications.

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## BOOKS LAW

### Construing Dworkin

Ronald Dworkin and Contemporary Jurisprudence  
edited by Marshall Cohen  
Duckworth, £24.00 and £9.95  
ISBN 07156 1813 X and 18172

There is little doubt that Ronald Dworkin is one of the most important figures in contemporary jurisprudence. But, as Professor Regan points out in his essay in this volume, "Important passages in Dworkin can be distressingly obscure, or tantalizingly incomplete." Why should this be so? The answer lies in the form that Dworkin's writings have taken. Few would doubt that Professor Dworkin is a brilliant critic who has, over the years, written stimulating papers which purport to point out serious weaknesses in legal positivism. These articles were collected in his book, *Taking Rights Seriously*. However, and this point cannot be overemphasized, *Taking Rights Seriously* is not a purpose-written monograph in which Dworkin methodically states his own philosophy of law. To make matters worse, Dworkin's written style, while always acute and often entertaining, cannot be regarded as lucid. Accordingly, Dworkin's position on many jurisprudential issues can only be discovered by a scholar who is capable of construing "Dworkinism" from the diverse arguments to be found in the critical essays which constitute his book.

Consequently, the major problem facing every student intent on studying Dworkin's work is to discover what is Dworkin's exact position on a particular point. Had the editor of the volume under review written or, even better, persuaded Professor Dworkin to write, an introductory chapter explaining the basic tenets of Dworkin's legal theory, all jurists would have been in his debt. But he did not. Instead, he has simply brought together 13 essays which criticize various aspects of Dworkin's views. All of these have already been published elsewhere - though to be fair, some, at least, have been revised or updated. The result may have the virtue of convenience for a reader who does not have access to a large library, but it does not greatly further Dworkinian scholarship.

The one original feature of the book is the final chapter, in which Dworkin replies to the criticisms made by the contributors to the volume. As one would expect, Dworkin's response makes fascinating reading. His replies are cleverly - if elaborately - argued: convincing while one reads them, less so, perhaps, when one reflects on



Ronald Dworkin

them. But once again the reader is left to discover for himself the new refinements of Professor Dworkin's position since these can only be found in the intricacies of his detailed arguments. Although the book over all is disappointing, it must be said that some of the contributions are excellent. Particularly impressive is the late John Mackie's argument that if, as Dworkin contends, judges must resort to principles of political morality when deciding controversial cases, this will have the practical effect of unsettling fixed points of law and thereby enlarging the scope of judicial law-making. Dworkin replies, however, that judges will only do so in "hard" cases where traditional positivists would themselves concede that judges are entitled to take into account policy considerations to provide an answer. Professor D. N. MacCormick's paper is valuable as much for the lucid and elegant account he gives of Dworkin's theory of adjudication as his criticisms of it. Finally, there is H. L. A. Hart's argument that Dworkin, while professing to take rights seriously, is nevertheless prepared to allow important rights to be overridden on utilitarian grounds.

The book raises a wide range of issues and treats them with depth and subtlety. For example, although Dworkin contends that in "hard" cases judges must resort to principles to find the right answer - thus giving effect to pre-existing individual rights - it is quite clear that the principles must already be part of the legal system and

consequently reflect the mores of the society concerned. It could be argued, therefore, that if the mores of a particular society were evil, as in Nazi Germany, then a Dworkinian judge faced with a "hard" case would be obliged to reach a decision based on the immoral principles inherent in the society's law. In his reply to David Lyons's essay, Dworkin refutes this contention. The question whether legal rights arise in such a system is itself a moral issue so that, for example, a judge who for moral reasons refuses to enforce an immoral statute, "has no reason to say that the statute creates any legal rights at all".

Even if there were any doubts before, it is now quite clear that Professor Dworkin's theory is a sophisticated, secular version of natural law thinking. But unlike traditional natural law theories, the rights which must be protected by a legal system are "for grubs" and the question whether particular rights ought to be included in the subject of rational debate. Indeed, Dworkin himself has recently used quasi-utilitarian arguments in an attempt to justify affirmative action programmes. To reconcile utilitarianism and natural law is no small feat for themselves the extent to which Professor Dworkin has been successful.

**J. M. Thomson**  
J. M. Thomson is lecturer in law at King's College London.

## The legal century

Law and Revolution: the formation of the western legal tradition  
by Harold J. Berman  
Harvard University Press, £27.60  
ISBN 0 674 51774 1

The author begins by postulating that there was once a "western" civilization (he is pessimistic enough to regard this as a past phenomenon) which developed distinctive legal institutions, values and concepts which were passed from generation to generation, thus constituting a tradition.

The origins of this western legal tradition lay in the papal revolution of 1073-1112, described somewhat ponderously as "the first transgenerational movement of a programmatic nature in western history". The immediate outcome of the revolution was the emergence of canon law as a system. In turn, this paved the way for later developments in the twelfth century (described by F. W. Maitland as "a legal century"), by Berman as "the legal century", of which the most important was the study of the laws of Justinian, the use of the scholastic

method of analysing and synthesizing the law, and the arrival of law schools at universities, notably Bologna. The type of thinking encouraged by the study of the law was of wider importance, in that it provided the mental basis for something like "modernity" in both scientific and political thought.

The author's scope is therefore broad, and may seem especially ambitious to those of us accustomed to the more limited, cautious scholarship which prevails in British legal history. There is much of value in the book, not least in the second half, when various secular legal systems, feudal law, manorial law, mercantile law, urban law, and royal law (in a number of different national contexts) are discussed. Obviously, it is easy enough to pick holes in a fabric which is well stretched at certain points. Specialists may find much to criticize in Berman's treatment of their areas of expertise, and there is also a sense that the works cited in the footnotes are not invariably as up to date as might be desired. Most leading intellectual figures of the last millennium make an appearance (Marx and Weber are subjected to a critique in the conclusion), and the author has a slightly irritating habit of introducing general statements with such phrases as "as Friedrich Nietzsche once said". Some of his assertions, indeed, have an odd ring: would Lenin have agreed that the Bolsheviks "preached a return to the

classless society of primitive times before the dawn of property"? It would John Hampden have seen himself guilty of "open disobedience to English Law"?

The seriousness with which such problems should be taken, however, depends in large measure on one's concept of the book's intended readership. Specialist legal historians might find much to criticize, and a good deal that is very familiar, but the book will undoubtedly be both useful and amusing for those approaching legal history, and, indeed, European medieval history, from a less esoteric perspective. Above all, we are indebted to its author on two counts: for his attack on the insularity of English and American legal thinking, his insistence that English medieval law must be understood in a wider, European context; and his reminder to those of us who work mainly on later periods of the fundamental importance of legal change, and of law's effects on the wider culture, in the high middle ages.

The "legal-mindedness" of the medieval European, and the fact that this legal-mindedness had some broader implications, are now beyond doubt.

**J. A. Sharpe**  
J. A. Sharpe is lecturer in history at the University of York.

## BOOKS LAW

### Leading cases

Textbook of Criminal Law, second edition  
by Glanville Williams  
Stevens & Son, £28.00 and £16.50  
ISBN 0 420 46850 1 and 46860 9

The remarkable achievements of Professor Glanville Williams in the field of criminal law culminated in 1978, on the very eve of his retirement, with an enormous work, his *Textbook of Criminal Law*. This was a new kind of textbook, incorporating a technique similar to that of the Socratic dialogue. This aspect has been considered in detail by reviewers of the first edition and it suffices to say that it has proved a very valuable instructional tool.

Now Professor Williams has provided us with a second edition of his work. However, this is no ordinary new edition of a legal textbook. A lesser writer would have been content to tinker with his text to delete redundant references and incorporate new developments within the existing

framework. Not so Professor Williams. Much of the book has been heavily revised and certain chapters completely rewritten. This, one suspects, does not and certainly should not arise out of any dissatisfaction on the author's part with the existing text. It has arisen in part, and inevitably, because of the ever-increasing changes made to the law by Parliament in, for example, the Theft Act 1978, the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, and the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981. What is disturbing, however, is the way that the existing complexities and illogicalities of this subject have been compounded by decisions of the courts. As one reviewer of the first edition put it:

It is exceedingly depressing that the quality of judicial analysis and statement in criminal cases should still be so generally low. Something very curious seems to happen to judges of high calibre when they pass from commercial or other ordinary civil work to the Divisional Court or the Court of Appeal Criminal Division. Their analytical power, critical capacity and sense of system desert them.

This comment should not be taken to imply that the decisions of the House of Lords are above criticism. On the contrary. If the aim of instituting a final right of appeal to the House of Lords in criminal cases was to inject certainty into the law, then it has been a woeful failure. This could have been to foster with his text to delete redundant references and incorporate new developments within the existing

## Stop-go theorists

Law and Administration  
by Carol Harlow and Richard Rawlings  
Wadsworth & Nicolson, £30.00 and £15.95  
ISBN 0 297 78239 8 and 78240 1

No one in England - not even the judges - now claims that we have no administrative law. Nevertheless its scope and character still leave room for argument. Judges tend to equate it with the body of public law remedies, though what is a public and what a private law issue is itself a question whose answer is unclear. In *Law and Administration* Carol Harlow and Richard Rawlings have constructed a new kind of textbook that is a study both in and about administrative law.

They kick off in a lively way with some juristic team selection. All administrative lawyers, they argue, must have a theory of the state. There are "red light" theorists and "green light" theorists. "Red light" theorists see the aim of administrative law as that of curbing or controlling the state and its agents. "Green light" theorists are more sympathetic to the use of executive power to provide welfare or community services, and are suspicious of judicial control. This picking of sides begins to look rather like a contest between an Oxbridge view of the constitution, erected by A. V. Dicey, H. W. R. Wade, C. K. Allen, Gordon Hewart and C. J. Hanson, and an LSE view propounded by Ivor Jennings, Harold Laski, W. A. Robson and J. A. G. Griffith. It also seems to bear some relation to conservative and progressive ideology.

But sympathy with executive action as such is not a constant element in left-wing political opinion, especially when it involves the action of police, immigration officials or social security investigators. Moreover it is possible to exaggerate the difference between "red light" and "green light" ideas of the scope of administrative law. Both Jennings and Wade, for example, focus both on the mechanisms of justice for the individual and on the machinery of administration when defining the subject area.

Harlow and Rawlings, possibly picturing themselves in a green-to-amber hue, devote a good deal of attention to detailed case studies of planning administration, immigration control and social security procedures, as well as including substantial chapters on ombudsman machinery and compensation for various kinds of injury. Four interesting and more analytical chapters examine the allocation of governmental functions, departmental rule-making procedures, the "justifiability" of disputes, and the application of techniques for limiting or

"rationing" judicial review. Through all this the reader is kept on his toes by being asked, from time to time, pointed questions, most of them rather difficult to answer. Conscientious students may find this Socratic needling somewhat nerve-racking, but it is at least a useful counter to the fatal eyepatch that sets in at about page 580 of even the best laid textbook.

On one point only, I should (as General Alexander Haig might say) caveat the authors' methodology. They say repeatedly that it is the "prevailing tradition" of legal positivism that has led to a form of law without politics that is ill-suited to the development of public law. This argument is unfair to legal positivism. Legal positivism is here defined as "those theories that focus on law as a system of rules, and downplay the link between law and morality". But this is not a satisfactory definition. Legal positivists believe in excluding moral elements from the definition of law, but they are not committed in any way to isolating legal from moral or political issues. Here they are said to believe that law is not a branch of political science, that it is autonomous, and that it is sealed off from history and morality. They are also charged with holding that case law can be discussed without reference to its administrative or political context; that the judicial function is passive, impersonal and mechanical; that traditional values should be perpetuated; and that formal definitions and concepts should be the primary tools of legal analysis. By implication they are also hostile to administrative tribunals, superstitious believers in the separation of powers and likely to be supporters of "red light" theories of administrative law. But none of these bad habits of formalism, conceptualism, and conservatism has any necessary connexion at all with legal positivism, or, for that matter, with logical, moral or philosophical positivism. Many "green light" theorists, incidentally, have been legal positivists (or, probably better, legal positivists) without danger to their liberal or "green light" status.

This debatable preliminary mapping does not, however, affect the substantial merits of the book. It is an original and genuinely interdisciplinary work that examines the impact of law on administration in a robust and questioning spirit that cannot fail to stimulate all who take an interest in public law.

**Geoffrey Marshall**  
Geoffrey Marshall is a fellow of Queen's College, Oxford.

The second edition of Charles Clark's *Publishing Agreements: a book of precedents* (1980) was published yesterday by Allen & Unwin at £15.00. Many areas of copyright are brought up to date, and the book now includes sections on film, television and sound reproduction.

**Christine Verity**  
Christine Verity is a barrister.

twin decisions in *R v Caldwell* and *R v Lawrence* on the concept of recklessness have caused and continue to cause great confusion as to the ambit of this term in the criminal law.

Professor Williams subjects these cases to a devastating critique, but inevitably the text at this point is extensive and difficult. The problem is aggravated in what is a book designed as a teaching medium by the fact that both these decisions have to be dealt with at an early stage, dealing as they do with fundamental concepts of the criminal law. The result is that several of the early chapters, so important for laying the groundwork in an undergraduate course, are now of necessity bristling with subtle distinctions. The need for statutory definitions of the fundamental terms of the criminal law, of concepts such as intention and recklessness, becomes ever more apparent. In this context, the Draft Bill put forward by the Law Commission in 1978 still points the way forward.

The depth and erudition of Professor Williams's arguments are a constant delight. The rules of law themselves are set firmly in their social context and an account is given of their philosophical underpinning, if any. This book is now established as the yardstick by which all other works on the criminal law are to be judged.

### S. J. Beaumont

S. J. Beaumont is senior lecturer in law at Leeds Polytechnic.

## A hard grind

Bar Finals Guide, second edition  
by Catherine Newman  
Sweet & Maxwell, £11.95  
ISBN 0 421 32044 0

The Bar finals must be among the most punishing examinations known to man. Apart from the fact that the student has to memorize, parrot-fashion, a vast number of facts, there are practical skills to be tested as well. The general papers I and II are the most difficult, for however much law a student knows the actual preparing of pleadings and giving of opinions which these exams demand depends ultimately on the practical experience which most examinees, by definition, have not yet had.

This book claims to contain enough basic material for the student to approach the general papers with confidence. It is divided into two sections each dealing with one exam. Part one covers tort and crime and contains useful accounts of the relevant case law (admirably up to date) and the appropriate statute law. This approach becomes particularly useful when the author deals with crime - she handles the Theft Act and its byzantine ramifications very neatly.

Part two covers the tricky subjects of trust and contract. Charities, discretionary, constructive and resulting trusts are explained and followed by a summary of trust administration. With contract the emphasis is on breach of contract, the area which gives rise to the practical questions that will be posed in the exam.

Finally, Catherine Newman gives a short account of the technicalities of the general papers and produces some of the more common draft pleadings. Her essay on writing opinions is admirable with its emphasis on the lawyer's client who will be looking for something lucid and approachable rather than perfect, yet impenetrable, legal jargon. Her emphasis on the difficulties presented by criminal pleadings is a joy to see, for there is a sad tendency, even at the student stage, for lawyers to regard crime as being something for the intellectually inferior. Finally, she has some good tips on how to make the finished answer more "professional".

It is difficult to imagine that anything could make the Bar exams less of a grind, but by putting so much material into such a short space this book is surely on the right track. Cries and sets of notes will always be at a premium but I can recommend this to anyone in a desperate state as the examinations loom.

### Christine Verity

Christine Verity is a barrister.

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# BOOKS

LAW

## Defining terms

*Essays in Jurisprudence and Philosophy*  
by H. L. A. Hart  
Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press, £17.50 and £7.50  
ISBN 0 19 825387 7 and 825388 5

Are the objects of the "human sciences" theoretical constructs or real things? Does literature exist exactly as when books do, does science exist exactly as when experimenters experiment? Or is "literature" a construct of us as well as the object of literary theory, "science" a construct of us as well as the object of scientific theory? Are philosophers in such fields engaged in anything more than an elaborate attempt to build definitions out of theories and theories to fit their definitions?

However we reply to these questions (and every solution has its problems), we shall find that our answer has analogical application to the idea of law. If sciences constitute their own objects of cognition, then this will be no less true of legal science (and of law) than of any other like science. The robust British response may of course be that "legal science" is an absurd continental idea, the soundly insular

view being that no such science exists. That, however, leads us straight into the "what is science?" debate and back on to the merry-go-round after all.

How appropriate then that H. L. A. Hart's volume of *Essays in Jurisprudence and Philosophy* opens with his essay "Definition and Theory in Jurisprudence" and how all the more appropriate that the essay is the text of the lecture wherewith he inaugurated his tenure of the Oxford Chair of Jurisprudence in 1953.

Of course, 1953 was the high noon of the Oxonian revolution in philosophy and H. L. A. Hart himself one of the vanguard storming the barricades of ancient régime philosophy. The new linguistic analysis was supposed to unlock doors hitherto barred in the face of logical positivists, logical atomists and all others who oversimplified the manifold uses of language. Where was this clearer than in the law, where language is made "operative" (Hart's preferred term) or "performative" (as his friend and close colleague J. L. Austin put it), made to do things in the world, not just describe items of our experience?

From that starting point, it followed that false approaches to definition must lead to erroneous theory. "What is law?" "What are rights?" "What persons?" — all such questions may lead to the response of a definition *per genus et differentium* built on the back of a dogmatic ontology. And that will lead nowhere. Better to ask what are the uses of "It is the law that . . .", "I

have every right to . . .", "The University is in debt to the bank", and to explicate the presuppositions which make such uses intelligible.

As with all new waves, the Oxford one of the fifties swept less before it than was anticipated, and has in the end spent itself in eddies and cross-currents of criticism and revisionism. Hart himself in his introduction to these essays gives his own reevaluation of it — too much, he concedes, was initially claimed for and by linguistic philosophy, but there are scaled-down claims and achievements which survive.

However that may be, it is certain that Hart's own project of dissolving the old questions of legal theory in the new wave of philosophical linguisticism had enormous and beneficial effects on the study of jurisprudence in the English-speaking world. Lawyers were excited anew to the philosophical dimensions of the law, philosophers to the legal as a domain of high importance for philosophy in both its analytical and its practical modes.

The essays published in this book in effect track over the succeeding thirty years the explosion of interest in legal philosophy which Hart triggered off first in 1953; they do so because they were part of the explosion. One sees here Hart's criticism of American and Scandinavian lines of argument in "realist jurisprudence", his long-running controversy with Lon L. Fuller of Harvard, spokesman of a modified natural law against Hart's modified

legal positivism, his statements of position as against Hans Kelsen's "Pure Theory" of law.

Best of all, perhaps, one has in a single section Hart's response to the new political-legal philosophies of right that were fostered by John Rawls, Robert Nozick and Ronald Dworkin. In these controversies one sees a range of questions where, even in Hart's present view, the tasks of philosophy go beyond those of linguistic analysis and conceptual clarification into matters of justification: by what principles can we justify claims and practical commitments in law and politics? Hart having himself led the attack on the view that all questions of justice can be answered in purely utilitarian terms, he now finds others pressing forward theories of rights and the right beyond and in opposition to utilitarianism. If his conclusion is here the negative one that a clear course has not yet been charted "between utility and rights", this merely increases the strength of the challenge to others to continue the work of exploration.

No explorer will be so rash as to set out without first reading these essays and indeed the whole opus of the greatest of our modern British philosophers of law.

Neil MacCormick

Neil MacCormick is Regius professor of public law at the University of Edinburgh.



Ivor Williams, the first English woman barrister (1877-1960). This photograph appears in A. W. B. Simpson's *Biographical Dictionary of the Common Law* (Butterworth, £29.50).

such safeguards as those contained in the First Amendment to the US Constitution?

At a more practical level, is student enrolment in an international human rights course likely to make such a course viable except in the largest law departments? It is easy to stimulate the student's interest in the European dimension to the subject. The impact of Strasbourg on English law is immediate and exciting. Not so with global instrument which has received little interpretative investigation in regional systems of protection based on the other side of the world. Professor Mervin and his colleagues have written a useful and thorough contribution to the literature, but I have my doubts whether it will spawn many new courses.

Joseph Jaconelli

Joseph Jaconelli is senior lecturer in law at the University of Manchester.

of our own legislation, "copyright" or "author's right" is scrupulously preserved for creators of works in the classical sense. In turn the neighbouring rights of record producers, broadcasters and performers have emerged from their own international convention of Rome (1961), with the evolution of which Dr Stewart was involved. But the slow progress of the convention even in an age which was seeing an acceleration in the piracy of sound recordings meant that a second convention on this subject alone had to be negotiated only a decade later.

These four conventions, together with certain other developments, international and regional, are reviewed by Dr Stewart himself in the first part of his book. Anyone who wants guidance around the relations between, and not least to the relations between them, would do well to start here. The second part of distinguished contributors, who include most of the household names among the close community of copyright convention negotiators. Eleven of these contributions outline the national laws of copyright, and the rest deal with the international aspects of the subject.

The reader will not have to look far in it to appreciate how extraordinarily sensitive and difficult these relations have always proved. Today negotiations all too rapidly become embroiled in hostilities and mutual incomprehensions of North and South. In the past equally, some countries that now the mutual advantages and disadvantages of an international proposal in strictly national terms. So it is that the major copyright relations between states are embodied not only in the Berne Convention of 1886 (with its various revisions) but also in a second convention sponsored by Unesco, the Universal Copyright Convention of 1952, which was the means necessary to attract the US into multinational arrangements. Many states, developed and developing, are members of both the USSR as well as the US, and adhere to the less demanding UCC. To complicate matters further those countries of continental Europe, led by France, which have insisted on the primacy of the author over the mere entrepreneurs who exploit his works for him, have been hostile to the idea of conceding rights of a broadly similar nature to those who finance the production of sound recordings, broadcasts and films. These however are coming to be admitted at least as "neighbouring rights" to many systems, even where, unlike the case

W. R. Cornish

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# BOOKS

LAW

## Adding a moral dimension

*Ethics and the Rule of Law*  
by David Lyons  
Cambridge University Press, £17.50 and £4.95  
ISBN 0 521 25785 9 and 27712 4

*Ethics and the Rule of Law* is an immensely competent if rather unadventurous introduction to the philosophy of law in the Anglo-American tradition. As the title suggests it is primarily a work of moral philosophy and is more likely to be of assistance to students of law who wish to find out more about ethics than to help philosophy students who wish to learn more about law.

The main topics covered are moral relativism, the inadequacies of utilitarianism, the moral neutrality of law, justice and paternalism, procedural fairness and civil disobedience. Preferential coverage is given to Jeremy Bentham, John Austin, J. S. Mill, H. L. A. Hart, John Rawls and Ronald Dworkin whose views are lucidly presented and deftly criticized in a manner which is likely to delight the busy undergraduate with a pressing essay deadline. Similarly there are five effective pages on Lon Fuller's "inner morality" of law, some central information on Aquinas's natural law and sufficient on Kant's doctrine of universalizability to illuminate his views on punishment, with briefer treatment of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Hans Kelsen and Lord Devlin and honourable mentions for William Blackstone and Joseph Raz appear only in the bibliography and John Finnis not even there. Significantly perhaps, neither Marx nor any contemporary socialist theorist intrudes at any point. In addition, many other unattributed theoretical positions are outlined. Thus Barbara Wootton's proposal for removing *mens rea* from issues of guilt and innocence to those relating to the treatment of offenders are explained and reviewed without acknowledgement.

The book contains relatively little by

way of analysis of fundamental legal concepts such as validity, relevance, *res iure*, tort, contract and negligence. Nor does it get any real explanation of the differences between civil and criminal law, the assumed prevalence of the book being almost entirely by the criminal sphere. Moreover there is a definite lack of development of the distinctive issues of ethics and the rule of law at the constitutional level. There is some discussion of human rights and some criticism of Austin's theory of sovereignty and Hart's rules of recognition but there is no mention of Dworkin nor any hint of Lord Denning. In general the interface of law and state and the conceptual and practical problem of law limiting and policing the powers of government are not well covered.

By and large the author manages to avoid addressing himself purely to American readers but British jurists will be dismayed that no mention is made of the technical principles of "natural justice" which have such importance of the rule of law within British jurisprudence.

Lyons is at his best where he allows his felt convictions to come through. This is particularly the case with his recurrent strictures on utilitarianism and his emphasis on the idea of respect for human personality. Philosophically he has, perhaps, most to offer in his treatment of legal reasoning and its relationship to the function of law in securing valued objectives such as order, welfare and peaceful dispute resolution. He also has interesting points to make about the complex interplay of process values along lines already set out by J. R. Lucas.

The merits of this book as an introduction are considerable. Its economy and clarity of expression, its careful balancing of arguments and its commitment to rigorous reasoning are all to be admired. It has, however, something of the flavour of a textbook which is expected to serve as a substitute for reading the "original" works. This, and a certain blandness of style count against its chances of enthusing the reader. Lyons's three interpretations of Devlin's thesis on law and morals and his seven reasons for setting limits to legal intervention may have a deadening as well as an informative effect. In other words, despite its skilful professionalism this primer in the philosophy of law leaves us still waiting for a successor to Hart's *Concept of Law*.

T. D. Campbell

T. D. Campbell is professor of jurisprudence at the University of Glasgow.

## Children's rights

*Family Law and Social Policy*, second edition  
by John Eekelaar  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.50 and £8.95  
ISBN 0 297 78274 6 and 78274 4

John Eekelaar's book *Family Security and Family Breakdown* (Penguin, 1971), established him as a pioneer in the socio-legal study of family law. In that first book he sought to assess the impact of law on family life, to explain how and why the law operates as it does, and to elucidate how the upheaval in family law was reflecting "profound changes in social attitudes to the family and the role it is expected to play in modern society".

In 1978 Eekelaar published the first edition of the book under review, in which he began to formulate a social theory providing a "functional analysis of modern family law". The "revolution of ideas" which he detected in family law developments in the 1970s, according to Eekelaar, created three major functions for family law: "to protect individuals from harm from the family, to provide a machinery for settling disputes between individuals within the family unit ends, and to direct social support to families which are in being".

In the six years since the first edition appeared, Eekelaar has consolidated his social theory for family law, and this second edition is therefore much more than an updating exercise, although unfortunately nearly 70 pages shorter. Eekelaar's important

empirical work at the Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Study on the economic consequences of divorce, custody decisions, divorce court welfare officers, and child-care decision-making in particular have led him to formulate a thesis of children's rights which he believes could give coherence to the current confused response of legal policy to social change.

Eekelaar's child-centred theory, which incorporates a concern for parents and other adults who care for the child, has as its premise that "marriage is likely to be increasingly associated with establishing a family", and that the major problems of divorce with which the law must deal are similarly associated specifically with the presence of children. Childless marriages or relationships present less grave problems of adjustment to breakdown than those with children. According to this theory "all children have an equal *prima facie* claim against the present adult world for optimal conditions of upbringing compatible with society's fundamental economic and ideological structure".

Eekelaar uses this "principle of justice", as he calls it, to evaluate his three functions of modern family law. Thus, for example, he argues that the rationale for conciliation procedures in divorce is to encourage compromise between adults for the benefit of their children; he proposes that all divorces with dependent children should go to a divorce court welfare service (he suggests that this should be totally separated from the Probation Service) for consideration of the children's interests; that normal divorce should not be granted until arrangements for children have been agreed and approved; that joint custody orders will symbolise "the expectation that a parental role will be maintained by the absent parent". He shows how the

## A personal statement

*Kahn-Freund's Labour and the Law*, third edition  
edited by Paul Davies and Mark Freedland  
Stevens, £16.75 and £10.50  
ISBN 0 430 46230 1 and 46230 9

In the editors' own words, *Labour and the Law* is the definitive description of a framework of labour law organized around the concept of collective bargaining. It was also a very personal statement of Otto Kahn-Freund's outlook on the British industrial relations system. The beauty of the original Hamlyn lectures was that with admirable clarity and economy they picked out the essential characteristics of British labour relations and law, and with great breadth of scholarship and in a way not previously done, compared them with the principal features of other, foreign systems.

Although the editors of this first edition since the author's death have tried to keep to the spirit of Kahn-Freund's work by concentrating on central topics and principles, not details, the result is a hefty increase in length. It is true that Kahn-Freund himself substantially expanded his lectures when he wrote the second, 1977 edition. But concern not to expand it even further was one of the factors which decided him against broadening the treatment of his subject. It was not, he insisted, a textbook. The editors still so insist, but in taking recent developments fully into account, and discussing leading cases and the present Government's legislative programme, they had added a third to its size, so that it is now over 360 close-packed pages. One of the original book's great merits has been lost.

The editors declare that their aim of keeping the book up to date at a conceptual as well as a descriptive level will have been achieved if the reader is left with any sense of conviction at all as to how the author himself might have rewritten his book in 1983. Unfortunately it is difficult to have any such conviction. In *Labour Relations: heritage and adjustment* (1979) Kahn-Freund had come to express serious doubts about the social ideal which was the cornerstone of his view of the industrial relations system — collective laissez faire. When the social contract between the TUC and the Labour Government collapsed he had serious misgivings as to whether traditional free collective bargaining could, in the face of inflation, restrictive practices

and mass picketing, provide the protection for "consumer interests" (including workers as consumers) which modern times seemed to require. At the time of his death he was, he said, "groping in the dark" for a solution based, he suggested, on a more centralized, tripartite bargaining system, involving TUC, CBI and Government.

Lord Wedderburn, in a recent collection of essays which was both a tribute to the dozen of British labour law and a critical evaluation of his work (*Labour Law and Industrial Relations: building on Kahn-Freund* edited by Lord Wedderburn, Roy Lewis and Jon Clark) has said it is "impossible to believe that Kahn-Freund would have maintained this prescription in the 1980s" since events under the Tory Government has rendered Kahn-Freund's new analysis "inevitable".

Davies and Freedland meet the problem by pointing out that in *Heritage and Adjustment* Kahn-Freund did not seem to see his fundamental questioning of accepted values as suggesting any reformulation of the conceptual framework of labour law. Nevertheless, it is difficult to believe that Kahn-Freund would have left the analytical framework untouched in a third edition, or even taken the same view of the scope of the text as he took in 1977. The editors themselves admit the necessity for "some recasting of the conceptual framework of labour law if

developments of recent years are to be adequately explained". Nevertheless, despite their commitment to a "living text" approach they did not feel ready to undertake this reshaping. They confine themselves to offering an alternative analysis (taking anti-inflation policy as the focus) in their introduction by way, as they say, of a "major footnote".

Perhaps, then, the logic of their understandable diffidence was to leave Kahn-Freund's text alone and develop their own, promising ideas in their own book. Despite their rejection of the "annotated classic" approach, the editors handle their (few) major dissatisfactions with the author's views by inserting caveats in square brackets, either in text or footnotes. Yet in other places they have slightly changed Kahn-Freund's wording, usually for syntactical reasons but sometimes altering the emphasis, with the result that the reader cannot now be certain he is reading "pure" Kahn-Freund.

While this book will continue to be essential reading for students, as a solution to the problem of editing someone else's work, Davies and Freedland is neither fish, flesh nor good red herring.

John Rear

John Rear is head of the faculty of professional studies at Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic.

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## For new courses

**Human Rights in International Law: legal and policy issues (two volumes)**  
edited by Theodor Meron  
Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press, £20.00 per volume  
ISBN 0 19 825472 5 and 825488 1

Until fairly recently the teaching of civil liberties in the law schools of England and Wales was confined to a corner of courses (mostly, first-year) in constitutional law. That situation has now largely been transformed. Optional courses in civil liberties or human rights are generally on offer to the more advanced student, whether at undergraduate or postgraduate level. Opportunities are available not only to examine the relevant English law in greater detail, but also to consider the problem areas in the comparative light of the European Convention on Human Rights and the United States Constitution.

The aim of these two volumes appears to be to carry a stage further this process of academic specialization and division of labour. It proclaims the merits of the international protection of human rights as the subject of an entire course, whether in departments of law or political science. Alternatively, it is urged as the framework of a constituent unit within the framework of a wider course. The resulting work is intended neither as a scholarly monograph nor as a student textbook (though there are considerable elements of each in it). Its purpose, rather, is to act as guide, philosopher and friend to the lecturer who wishes to develop a course on the international law of human rights. His needs are met by an account of the main areas of the subject, supplemented by syllabuses, bibliographies, teaching suggestions and a few hypothetical problems for class discussion. (For those unable to take the heroic leap to a full course, there are mini-syllabuses and mini-bibliographies).

Thirteen contributors cover as many subject areas. In addition to the core topics (the United Nations Covenants and the European and American Conventions on Human Rights) individual chapters are devoted to such diverse subjects as human rights in situations of armed conflict, the work of the International Labour Organization, and the part played by private bodies such as Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists. Most of the contributors either hold a teaching post in an American law school or have had experience in the field with an international organization.

Inevitably, students who come to an international human rights course will do so with differing academic backgrounds and interests. Some will have studied human rights protection at the level of municipal law, some will be interested in jurisprudential issues

such as the nature of rights; others will wish to examine the practical problem of enforcing human rights standards against recalcitrant states. The resulting course will inevitably be composite, building on the knowledge of more elementary principles and adapting them to the detailed consideration of new situations. (Its composite nature should not be an insuperable objection to a course on human rights. In its early days objection was taken to the subject of labour law as being nothing more than contract and tort in dungarees). This leads to several difficulties, which, I feel, are underestimated by the authors.

Many of the issues raised fall within the remit of disciplines other than law. While contribution, for example, has the lawyer to offer to an examination of the causes of underdevelopment in the third world? Again, several of the questions that run throughout the book (such as: are human rights documents mere witness to an objective truth?) are philosophical questions. The explanation of why this right or that found its way into a human rights document requires an appreciation of the balance of forces around the negotiating table. The justification of its inclusion, however, falls within the province of the philosopher. There is, indeed, a separate chapter on "The Jurisprudence of Human Rights". It is the least satisfactory part of the book, betraying some misconceptions about positivism and Hohfeld's analysis of rights.

The international human rights lawyer, too, labours under certain disadvantages which his colleague in the constitutional field escapes. Some of the documents with which he deals lack efficient enforcement procedures; others have seen but scant litigation. Perhaps too much play, then, must be given to the speculative question: How would "reverse discrimination" fare under some international texts? It is all very well to ban, at the international level, the spreading of racial hatred; but would such bans not fall foul of

convention states acquire copyright in all the territories but also that the copyright offered to other nationals is of a prescribed minimum scope in such matters as the term of protection and the types of activity that it covers. Whether the copyright of the future can adhere to the present balance between national and international law is an open question. Satellite technology seems poised for disruption. At least it is likely that any change will heighten the significance of national arrangements and that is the first importance of Dr Stewart's substantial volume devoted to the subject.

The reader will not have to look far in it to appreciate how extraordinarily sensitive and difficult these relations have always proved. Today negotiations all too rapidly become embroiled in hostilities and mutual incomprehensions of North and South. In the past equally, some countries that now the mutual advantages and disadvantages of an international proposal in strictly national terms. So it is that the major copyright relations between states are embodied not only in the Berne Convention of 1886 (with its various revisions) but also in a second convention sponsored by Unesco, the Universal Copyright Convention of 1952, which was the means necessary to attract the US into multinational arrangements. Many states, developed and developing, are members of both the USSR as well as the US, and adhere to the less demanding UCC. To complicate matters further those countries of continental Europe, led by France, which have insisted on the primacy of the author over the mere entrepreneurs who exploit his works for him, have been hostile to the idea of conceding rights of a broadly similar nature to those who finance the production of sound recordings, broadcasts and films. These however are coming to be admitted at least as "neighbouring rights" to many systems, even where, unlike the case

Some phoenix, however, is sure to arise seeking justice for the creators of the material which all these marvellous techniques depend upon if they are to serve many of their purposes. In all the old name. Indeed the change in plume may be gradual enough to be lost on the untutored eye. At the end of the process, however, gone will be the old copyright law, appropriate to a world of laboured production from presses and discs and celluloid, and distribution through booksellers, record shops, cinema circuits and broadcast, over licensed wavelenghts. Its place will be a law under which both the sale and use of material will be paid for through a largely automatic system of notification and attribution, at rates which will often have been negotiated collectively. Indeed if copyright is to survive this transformation, it must harness computerized information to its own ends.

The old copyright worked on the basis of national laws supplemented by more important conventional arrangements at the international level. These latter have had, as their aim to secure, not only that the nationals of all the

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